

Together

magazine

**STOP
CLIMATE
CHANGE**
Sing for it

Art Attack
Benjamin Spark

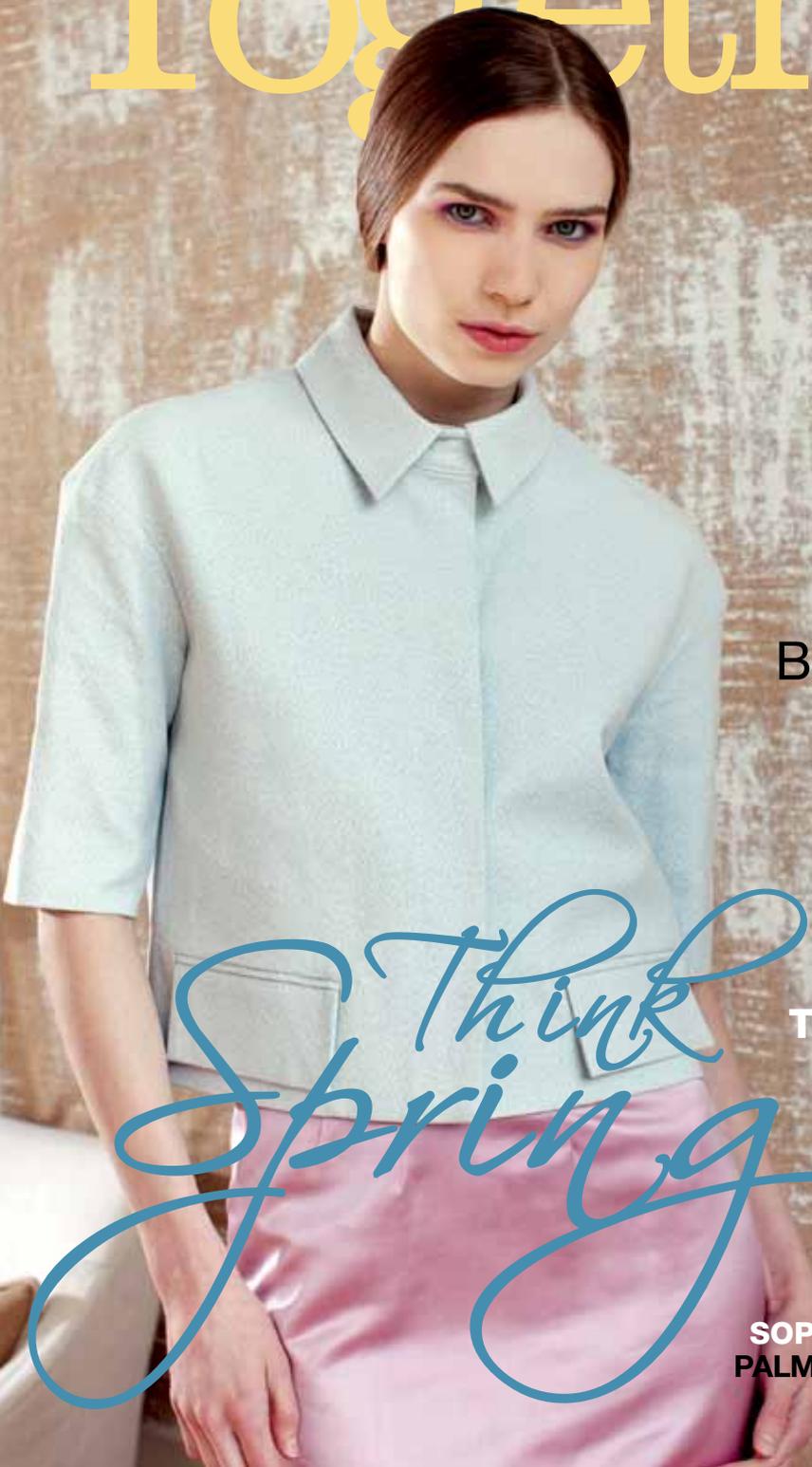
FEMALE FIRST
DANISH PREMIER

DE-CLUTTER
The celebrity way

DIAMONDS
Still forever

SOPHISTICATED TRAVEL
PALMA DE MALLORCA AND
FRENCH POLYNESIA

Think
Spring



Wish for something truly exceptional...

DIAMONDS FROM ANTWERP



www.awdc.be



Publisher's letter

The saying goes that if you want to get ahead then get a hat, and hats have certainly gone to our heads in this issue which features four pages of fashionable headgear

ON THE COVER



PHOTOGRAPHER
Fred Chapotat

STYLIST
Nicholas Sirot

HAIR AND MAKE-UP
David Bettega
Yves Saint Laurent and
L'Oreal Professional

MODEL
Celine Moniquet
Dominique Models Agency

WEARING
Jacket by **Cos**
Skirt by **Agnès B**
Handbag by **PauleKa**

When it comes to clothes and accessories, our regular stylist **Nicholas Sirot** never fails to have the pick of a number of fashion labels, and he has worked his magic yet again for the shoot on pages 44-48. We had the kind permission of artist **Benjamin Spark**, whose work appears on pages 78-81, to use his apartment as a backdrop for the photographs – and Spark's dog **Marat** also tries his paw at modelling on page 33.

Love is in the air at this time of the year, so relationship counsellor **Suzette Reed** takes a look at young love and the intensity of teenage relationships on page 21; among the holiday destinations our contributors write about, we feature a private family home in France where young teens can learn to cook – see page 71 for details.

The arrival of milder weather and longer days heralds the onset of spring, with cleaning often at the top of the agenda for the season. If that's the case, then why not take inspiration from clutter buster to the stars **Vicky Silverthorn**, who has some useful advice on page 17 about how to part with those bits of useless junk that tend to accumulate in drawers and cupboards.

We've also been inspired to take a fresh look at the website and how best to continue keeping readers up to date with the latest news about leisure, travel, fashion, beauty, entertainment, the arts and more in between issues of the magazine. Check it out at www.togethermag.eu and let us know what you think via our Facebook page. ☺

David

David McGowan
PUBLISHER

[f /togethermagazine](https://www.facebook.com/togethermagazine) [t @Together_Mag](https://www.tumblr.com/@Together_Mag)



53

62

Contents

APRIL/MAY 2012

- 3 Publisher's letter
- 4 Contributors
- 8 Starring in Belgium

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 13 **Politics:** Danish prime minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt
- 17 **Therapy:** de-clutter
- 21 **Relationships:** young love
- 23 **Health:** exercise at the office
- 29 **Money:** diamond investment

THINK SPRING

- 35 **Climate change:** putting it back on the agenda
- 39 **Beauty:** spa and salon facials
- 41 **Beauty:** new products
- 44 **Fashion:** spring colours
- 50 **Fashion:** gentlemen's outfitter Maison Degand
- 53 **Fashion:** the season's new hats

LIFE OF LEISURE

- 62 **Travel:** French Polynesia
- 66 **Travel:** Palma
- 71 **Food:** learn to cook in Provence
- 74 **By the glass:** Glenmorangie whisky
- 78 **Art:** Benjamin Spark
- 82 **Charity:** Music Fund
- 84 **Going out:** Place St Gery
- 87 **Going out:** Hard Rock Cafe
- 89 **What's On:** Belgium
- 93 **What's On:** international
- 98 **Cartoon:** Le Chat by Philippe Geluck

Together

magazine

FOUNDER

Jérôme Stéfanski

PUBLISHER

David Mc Gowan

david@togethermedia.eu

EDITOR

Patricia Kelly

patricia@togethermedia.eu

ART DIRECTOR

Jennifer Barteluk

jennifer@togethermedia.eu

CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Ames; Martin Banks; Christian Bieber; Kathleen Blake; Julia Brandon; Patti Bruns; Fred Chapotat; Laura Cohn; Ann Cordell; Jules Crosbie; Philippe Geluck; Nigel Griffiths; David Haworth; Mary Sue Kiso; Blandine Lejeune; Erik Lungtang; Lauren Omahen; Emma Portier Davis; Tatiana Praxis; Suzette Reed; Vicky Silverthorn; Nicholas Sirot; Klara Slovo; Delphine Stefens

ONLINE EDITOR

Nigel Griffiths

nigel@togethermedia.eu

KEY ACCOUNT DIRECTOR

Renaud Philippart

renaud@togethermedia.eu

For advertising sales rates please consult the website www.togethermag.eu

Together Media

Boulevard St Michel, 47
B-1040 Brussels
+32 (0)2 400 00 24
info@togethermedia.eu
www.togethermedia.eu

Nothing in this magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher. The publisher cannot be held responsible for the views and opinions expressed in this magazine by contributors. Together is neither responsible for nor endorses the content of published advertisements, nor can the magazine be held responsible for any errors or inaccuracies in the same.

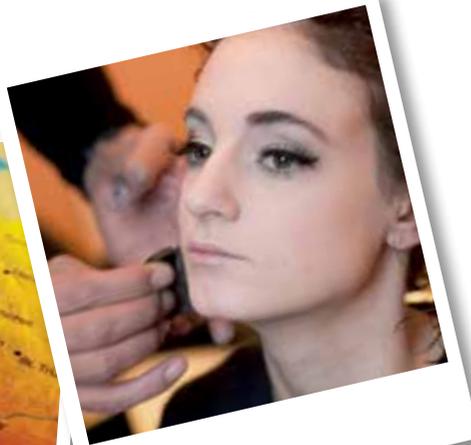


FLOWER BY KENZO
the world is beautiful

kenzoparfums.com

Want more...

fashion? travel? lifestyle?
technology? art & culture? news?



continue online
www.togethermag.eu

 /togethermagazine

 @Together_Mag

**B&B
ITALIA**

Dominique Rigo,
a modern take on outdoor living.

B&B ITALIA AT DOMINIQUE RIGO 210 RUE DE STALLE - 1180 BRUSSELS

AGAPE / ALIAS / ARCO / ARKETIPO / ARTEMIDE / **B&B ITALIA** / CAPPELLINI / CASALIS / CASAMILANO
CASSINA / CLASSICON / DESALTO / EMECO / ERBA MOBILI / EXTREMIS / FIAM / FLEXFORM
FLOS / FONTANA ARTE / FOSCARINI / FRITZ HANSEN / GALOTTI & RADICE / HUGUES CHEVALIER
INGO MAURER / INTERLÜBKE / KARTELL / KNOLL / LAGO / LIGNE ROSET / LIMITED EDITION
LUCEPLAN / MAXALTO / MDF ITALIA / NEMO / PAOLA LENTI / PASTOE / POLIFORM / POLTRONA FRAU
SAHCO HESSLEIN / SIMON / TOULEMONDE BOCHART / VARENNA / VITRA /

info +32 [0]2 649 95 94 info@dominiquerigo.be www.dominiquerigo.be

 dominique rigo
contemporary interiors since 1974

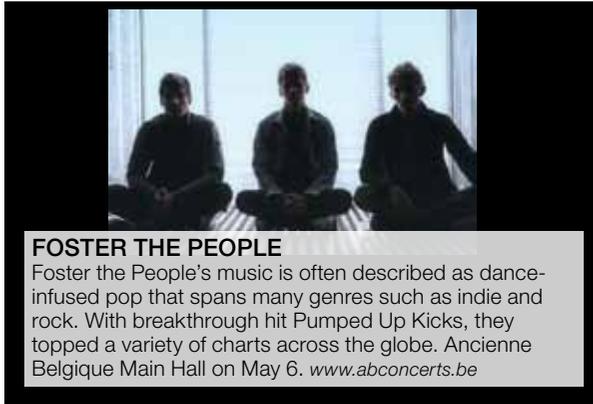
Starring in Belgium

A choice of entertainment compiled by **Mary Sue Kiso**

BOWERBIRDS

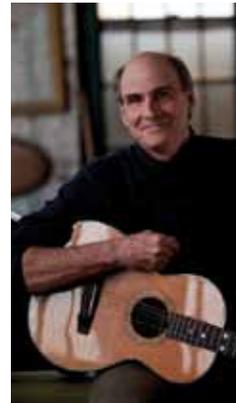
Originating from North Carolina, indie folk duo Philip Moore (vocals, guitar) and Beth Tacular (vocals, accordion) becomes a 5-member band when playing live. Featuring their album, *The Clearing*, at Ancienne Belgique on May 8. Tickets at €12.

www.abconcerts.be



FOSTER THE PEOPLE

Foster the People's music is often described as dance-infused pop that spans many genres such as indie and rock. With breakthrough hit *Pumped Up Kicks*, they topped a variety of charts across the globe. Ancienne Belgique Main Hall on May 6. www.abconcerts.be



JAMES TAYLOR

Entertaining fans for more than 40 years, singer-songwriter-guitarist James Taylor was awarded the National Medal of Arts, America's highest honour for artistic excellence in March last year. Performing May 2 at the Centre for Fine Arts, Bozar, along with his band. Tickets from €36. www.bozar.be

MADONNA

American singer, songwriter and pop-icon Madonna has sold more than 300 million records worldwide and is stopping in Belgium during her tour in celebration of her most recent album *MDNA*. Stade Roi Baudouin on July 12. Tickets from €45. www.livenation.be



MORTEN HARKET

Norwegian musician Morten Harket is known for his wide vocal range and strong falsetto. Harket has four solo albums but was previously lead singer of pop band A-ha, with nine studio albums that topped charts in several countries. Ancienne Belgique Main Hall on May 8. Tickets at €30. www.abconcerts.be



LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

One of the best-known orchestras in the world, the LSO conducted by Pierre Boulez plays at the Centre for Fine Arts, Bozar, on May 3. Tickets from €18. www.bozar.be



Photographs: Madonna © David Shankbone; Morten Harket © Divulgação; Bowerbirds © Bowerbirds; London Symphony Orchestra © Bozar, Pierre Boulez, DG; James Taylor © Bozar

Vorsprung durch Technik 

Small car. 5 doors. Big on Audi.

The new Audi A1 Sportback.



Environmental information (RD 19/03/2004): www.audi.be
Shown model with equipments.

3,8 - 5,9 L/100 KM • 99 - 139 G CO₂/KM.



www.audiA1sportback.be

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Denmark's first female prime minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt
© Erik Luntang



Puilaetco Dewaay
A TRULY
PRIVATE BANK

FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS

Whoever wants to be successful and make all his dreams come true should never allow anyone or anything to disturb his concentration. That is just as true for the outside world as it is on the putting green. Whoever focuses on what matters will achieve his objectives.

At Puilaetco Dewaay we know what it means to go 100% straight to the goal. As a truly private bank we focus completely on the management of your assets and work exclusively on solutions that are tailor-made to your needs. This focus allows us to interpret our task to the fullest. You can contact us for customised asset management, portfolio management, art advisory services and loans.

Consult us without obligation 0800 48 100

www.pldw.be

BRUSSEL/BRUXELLES
ANTWERPEN
HASSELT
LIÈGE
NAMUR
SINT-MARTENS-LATEM
WAREGEM

It's Helle at the top

Denmark's first female prime minister, currently at the helm of the European Union, is profiled by **David Haworth**

When Helle Thorning-Schmidt took office last autumn much was made of "Denmark's first female premier" - though of the Nordic nations alone, Finland, Norway and Iceland have all previously had women leaders, in the latter case 30 years ago, so the Dane's arrival was no trail-blazer.

Her narrow victory was of particular interest in Brussels, however, because it happened on the eve of Denmark's current presidency of the European Union. There was interest in how the cool

any of the usual domestic chores as she runs the country, brings up two young daughters, and acts as figurehead of the EU. She stresses the feminine side of her feminism.

"It's important in politics to be the person you are," she says, making no bones about the nickname she has acquired in some Danish circles: "Gucci Helle".

FORMER MEP

In her case being an ordinary gal seems a bit improbable. She has two degrees in political science - one from Copenhagen, the other from Bruges - in her highly expensive handbag, and rose to prominence almost before anyone noticed she was on her way. No books or even monographs have been authored by her, which makes it hard to pin down the political epiphany which brought her to where she is today.

After a stint at the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions, she was elected to the European Parliament - which may or may not be a path to promotion - becoming the first woman president of the Danish Social Democrats, yet said by one commentator to be "the weakest leader the party has ever had".

“She has two degrees in political science in her highly expensive handbag”

45-year-old former MEP of eye-catching elegance would make a difference to a Union lurching from crisis to crisis.

Just as Nordic and Dutch royalty are always said to cycle everywhere, this socialist prime minister makes a point of being, well, just a housewife, not shirking

She hasn't got much form in foreign affairs so one cannot guess how her EU presidency will play out. Thorning-Schmidt scraped her five seat majority in a campaign that relied heavily on Danish domestic matters, mainly bits and pieces about public transport, health checks, school classes, a tax on fatty foods, and so on, but barely dwelling on the fact that Denmark is in one of its worst recessions since 1945. She acknowledged "we've got to get a grip on the economy", but so far, as a premier of a non-eurozone country, has revealed no strategy for doing so.

"We have the opportunity to change Denmark. That opportunity must be seized," she said on taking the helm. This last was catalogued as a "brainy quote", although readers may think instead it's pretty banal. Clever as she may be, the striking phrase (at least in English) is never deployed.

COD WAR

Her EU Presidency mantra is for "a responsible Europe" – dynamic, green and safe – something everyone could live with, in other words, should that upland become sunny before the summer holidays. If parochial Danish politics get rougher for the so-called Red Bloc, she may not even get that far. She's being mocked at home for not keeping her promises and the largest circulation paper named her "New Year Cod" in a readership poll – a "cod" being someone who is accident prone.

She has exhorted voters to each work an extra twelve minutes per day to give the economy a bit of a lift. It caught the headlines, that's for sure, but the idea swiftly came to nothing. How could it and the economic effects be measured?

TV FICTION

Thorning-Schmidt has to tolerate comparison to her fictional counterpart in the vivid television series *Borgen* about a youngish mother who slithers through Denmark's coalition complexities and unexpectedly becomes the country's first woman premier. It's not modelled on Thorning-Schmidt, having being made

before her victory, but it was prescient.

One suspects the TV-fiction parallels are irritating when the media quip about life imitating art. Maybe she frets that the drama's main character is more interesting than what Thorning-Schmidt told *The Times* is "my reality". Part of that reality is being the daughter-in-law of former European Commissioner (and a former contender for the British premiership) Neil Kinnock. Her husband, Stephen Kinnock, is a weekend commuter from Switzerland working as a director of the Davos-based World

“being upstaged by a television programme as well as Angela Merkel must make things hard for the Danish prime minister”

Economic Forum. They met as postgraduates while studying at the College of Europe in Bruges and apparently, when in Copenhagen, he pulls his weight domestically just as the hubby in TV's *Borgen* does. If needed, the grandparents pile over from the UK to give a hand.

So far Thorning-Schmidt's impression on Danish politics, and indeed on EU politics, has been rather like a footprint in wet sand; an outline is there but the detail remains vague. To be fair, she hasn't had much time yet and, as a political idiom the "Nordic model", is burnished with good intentions though doesn't make the heart race. It's not a novelty any more and neither is female leadership of a nation.

Lacking these former advantages, being upstaged by a television programme as well as Angela Merkel must make things hard for the Danish prime minister in the crisis "*de nos jours*", but there we are. Now we go to the trailer to see what happens in the next episode. Stay tuned. ☺



www.porschecentrebrussels.be

**The person you are calling is temporarily not available.
The new Boxster.**

PORSCHE CENTRE BRUSSELS
Grote Baan, 395, Grand'Route - 1620 Drogenbos
Tel.: 02 371 79 59 - Fax: 02 371 79 60
www.porschecentrebrussels.be

PORSCHE
INTELLIGENT
PERFORMANCE



Give way to safety. Environmental information (RD 19/03/2004): www.porsche.be

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION (L/100 KM) : 7,7-8,8 / CO₂ EMISSION (G/KM) : 180-206.

Spring-cleaning *the celebrity way*

Professional organiser and celebrity clutter buster **Vicky Silverthorn** is paid to help people get rid of their clutter, and says de-cluttering is good for the soul

For ten years of my life I worked as a PA; I organised and took over the running of other people's lives, and I loved it. I learned so much. I learned about people and I learned about processes. I was lucky enough to work for the recording artist Lily Allen, which involved travelling around the world with no choice but to keep everything in immaculate order and in its correct place. We lived in hotels and on tour buses in different locations on and off for about 18 months. There was no excuse for not having what you needed to hand.

Now I run my own business as a professional organiser and de-clutterer and jump in and out of other people's homes on a daily basis. I use all of the methods that I learned from my experience as a PA and from being on the road. I know what works and I most definitely know what does not work. And I make people happy.

LETTING GO

The importance of de-cluttering your home is widely underestimated. People think nothing of hiring a cleaner. But for many people, a cleaner is merely a way >

Think tank

Be the best you can be

Unique members' clubs for culture, business, sport & well-being



www.aspria.be

Be More

of disguising what's hidden underneath. We kid ourselves that when our homes are clean and shiny then all is well, when it is not. We should no longer just scratch the surface and go on pretending. We need to go deeper and cleanse our homes in order to cleanse our minds and thus improve our lives.

For some, the task of de-cluttering is much harder than for others. Some people have such a strong attachment to their belongings, and no matter what they are, they just can't seem to let go. In these extreme situations there are a few techniques I use. One is to hold up the item in question in one hand – perhaps an old gift bag or even a broken ornament with no sentimental value and worth no money – and in the other hand I metaphorically hold their space and their sanity. Soon it becomes clear – and there is no other option – the item needs to go. Immediately.

People derive comfort and motivation when belongings head to the charity shop, or to friends and family. I call it "making someone else happy". It is a simple technique but so effective – just slightly altering the way we think, and turning a negative into a positive.

HOW TO START

Depending on what size your house is, and what kind of state it is in depends on how you start what can be a long process. I've had phone calls asking if I can be booked for a couple of hours to sort out someone's wardrobe. When I explain that it would usually take me a day with an assistant to do this properly for any medium-size wardrobe or bigger, I sense their shock.

If a task is only 90 per cent complete you will see the remaining 10 percent slowly grow and spread like a disease. I don't know the reason for this, but completed jobs are more likely to stay done.

My advice is to start slowly, especially if you are someone with a busy life. Give

yourself two normal sized bags and 20 minutes. In this 20 minutes simply slowly walk around each room in your home and if there is something you don't need or use and want rid of, put it straight into the bag. The fact that you are doing this shows you want or need a de-clutter. But the pressure of thinking about spending an entire day intensively de-cluttering is removed.

TIME YOURSELF

See how you do with this initial task and up the number of minutes you spend at it the next time. After that, begin giving yourself slightly bigger tasks. Head for your first junk drawer and give yourself 20 minutes to clear it out, rubbish bin at your side. Next, perhaps try looking under the bed. Then keep going through your rooms and each night, for no more than an hour at a time, get the small bits out of the way. You will not believe how much you can get done in a week. It is so satisfying and you will notice a big difference in a relatively small amount of time.

When all the small tasks are complete, head for the bigger ones – you can still do this in small spurts. For example, give yourself two hours for shoes, an hour for your laundry cupboard, a few hours for

jeans, trousers and skirts...and so on.

De-cluttering is like a therapy. This is what my many clients tell me, and I totally agree. It is no

exaggeration to say that when a booking is complete, my clients without fail will breathe an enormous sigh of relief. Although the process is both physically and mentally tiring, they are glowing ecstatically once it is all over – and so will you. ☺

“I jump in and out of other people's homes on a daily basis”

“De-cluttering is like a therapy”

www.youneedavicky.com
Twitter: @youneedavicky



VOLVO SENSUS – Take your eyes, ears and fingertips on a journey. Volvo Sensus is your all-in-one onboard operating system that brings together infotainment, navigation, car settings, Bluetooth® music streaming and other features. The 7-inch screen is positioned high, which allows you to keep your eyes on the road. **The Volvo 60-range is designed around you.**

VOLVO CARS DIPLOMAT SALES

SCANDINAVIAN LUXURY



VOLVO S60

VOLVO V60

VOLVO XC60

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DIPLOMATS IN BRUSSELS

Custom build your new Volvo with great savings on luxury equipment such as the Volvo Diplomat Package – and gain many other benefits besides. Talk to one of our certified Volvo diplomat dealers in Brussels for more information or visit diplomat.volvocars.com.

ACB BRUSSELS, 1932 Zaventem, 3090 Overijse, Mr Carlos Romao, Tel 0474 10 75 50, carlos@acbrussels.be

JPC MOTOR S.A., 7000 Mons, Mr Julien Bronchart, Tel 065 32 78 46, julien.bronchart@jpcmotor.be

DE SMET BRUSSELS, 1620 Ukkel-Drogenbos, Mr Guy Herrezeel, Tel 02 333 80 23, guy.herrezeel@desmetbrussels.be

S.A. LOUIS BRUSSELS N.V., 1030 Brussels (Schaerbeek), Mr Andy Manuka, Tel 02 7438174 diplomat.sales@garage-louis.be

STERCKX N.V., 1640 Rhode-St.Genève, St Genesius-Rode, Mr Philip Van de Walle, Tel 02 359 94 85, philip@sterckx.be
1500 Halle, Mr Yves Tielemans, Tel 02 363 15 35, yves@sterckx.be

ÉLÉGANCE, SPORTIVITÉ, MAÎTRISE TECHNOLOGIQUE...
TOUT LE SAVOIR-FAIRE ALFA ROMEO VOUS ATTEND EN MARS.
SOIGNEZ VOTRE LIGNE.



MITO DIESEL SUPER
JUSQU'À 3.300 € D'AVANTAGES**

ÉQUIPEMENTS DE SÉRIE
Super

Contrôle électronique de la stabilité ESP, Start & Stop, 7 airbags, différentiel électronique Q2, sellerie cuir, volant cuir, climatisation, jantes en alliage 17" et phares antibrouillard.

Il y a déjà une MiTo essence à partir de **175 €** par mois sans acompte*

SANS CŒUR, NOUS NE SERIONS QUE DES MACHINES.



DONNONS PRIORITÉ À LA SÉCURITÉ.



Attention, emprunter de l'argent coûte de l'argent.

3,5-5,8 L/100 KM et 95-134 G CO₂/KM (1.3 JTDM 85cv-1.4 essence 70cv)

* Selon exemple ci-dessus. Sous forme de prêt à tempérament avec dernière mensualité majorée. Prix facture TVA incl 12.500 €. Montant à financer 12.500 €. Durée 60 mois, dont 59 mensualités de 175 € et une dernière mensualité majorée de 4.499 €. Prix total à tempérament: 14.824 €. Taux annuel effectif global valable au 01/03/2012: 5,50%. En fonction des durées maximales légales, hors assurance crédit facultative. Ce taux peut être adapté en fonction du marché. Sous réserve d'acceptation de votre dossier par AlphaCredit sa. Prêteur: rue Ravenstein 60/15 - 1000 Bruxelles. Annonceur: Fiat Group Automobiles Belgique. ** Offre pour particuliers - valable jusqu'au 31/03/12 à l'achat d'une Alfa Romeo MiTo Super Diesel 1.3 JTDM 85cv/95cv. Remise Alfa Romeo, avantage pack et Prime de reprise et prime de stock comprises dans le prix. Prix TVAC 21%. Documents et Photos non contractuels. Sous réserve d'erreurs d'impression ou d'omissions. Annonceur: Fiat Group Automobiles Belgium SA Rue Jules Cockx 12a 1160 Bruxelles.

Teenage love story

Relationship counsellor **Suzette Reed** takes a look at first love, why teenage relationships are so intense and how they set a pattern for later relationships

The feelings of attraction for another are with us all our lives. Humans need other humans – families and friends, as well as partners – but at some time around puberty everything seems to become more intense and vivid.

Teens often experience serious “crushes” for an unattainable singer or TV celebrity, or go weak at the knees for someone in the class above at school. Is this love or is it infatuation? Is love the first real romantic relationship when we become “an item” with another, even if it is for only a few weeks? Well, to some extent, all of that. Trying out imaginary romance is the prequel to real romance but usually a lot more controllable. When another person with their own expectations and needs comes into the picture, life can become a roller coaster.

CHANGES

While supporting young people through the maelstrom of emotions of the teenage years, it is important to recognise the key changes that take

place in their minds and bodies. As children move into their teens, friends become more important in their lives. Within friendship groups they can try out

new ways of behaving. The next step into an emotional and physical relationship can be startling, exciting and scary, and more often than not unpredictable.

There is no roadmap for love, and finding the way for the first time is tricky.

Physically, hormones have kicked in and may be causing havoc. Many teens struggle with body image, girls more than boys, and this can put them in a vulnerable state with conflicting feelings about their worth.

Recently it has been discovered that the brain is still developing through the teens and beyond. The use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans has given us new insight into the young brain, and shows that brain

changes in mid and late teenage years are critical for the formation of self-image, social skills and impulse control. The emotional region of the brain develops

ahead of the part of the brain that controls rational thought. In other words, teenagers have well-developed emotions and feelings but struggle to think things

through. Their senses are also more acute than adults, so smells, sounds and sights affect them hugely.

“short relationships can be intensely passionate”

THREE PHASES OF LOVE

Psychologists talk of the three stages of romantic love. The initial physical response of attraction is ‘lust’. The falling in love is ‘attraction’

- and falling in love as a teenager is more intense than the experience in adulthood. The emotional commitment, required to make relationships last, is known as ‘attachment’.

Teenagers experience the attraction phase more strongly than adults, but the attachment phase needs commitment and many teen relationships are short-term. Even short relationships can be intensely passionate, and the young couple will spend hours talking or thinking about each other. The relationship is all absorbing and the ending can feel devastating. But intimacy teaches them about their own identity, simply through becoming close to someone else. Intimacy also involves openness, sharing and trust, so it helps contribute to maturity. A good experience of first love can set a healthy pathway for love in the future. ☺

Merckx Gebroeders NV

Brusselsesteenweg 341 - B-3090 Overijse - tél: 02/687.64.30 - info@garagemerckx.be - www.fiat.be



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A BEAUTIFUL WORKING ENVIRONMENT ?

VIPOFFICES – Prestigious fully equipped offices, tailor-made virtual office solutions, full-option meeting rooms, multilingual reception services, organization of unique events, fully equipped apartments, Mobile Coworking and EaseYourLife Concierge Services....

www.vipoffices.com



T. +32-2-400.00.00 | F. +32-2-400.00.32 | NICETOMEETYOU@VIPOFFICES.COM

No time? No excuse

For people determined to keep fit but with little time to exercise, here are seven moves in a ten minute workout devised by personal trainer **Patti Bruns** with photographs by **Blandine Lejeune**

Do this workout three to five times a week to keep strong and limber. Complete two sets of each exercise in the given order and rest 30 seconds between exercises. After two weeks, perform as a circuit, completing one set of each exercise consecutively, resting two minutes, and repeating a second time.

Schedule this workout into your diary – you will be less likely to skip it if you make time for it in your agenda. These exercises will rev up energy levels and release stress, allowing for peak performance all day long.

STRENGTH MOVES

STATIONARY LUNGE

Works legs and glutes
Repeat 16-20 times



Standing with feet hip-width apart, take a large step forward with your right foot, heel making contact first and bending both knees to 90 degrees. Keep eyes forward, arms loosely by sides, and back straight. Pushing off with the heel, drive the right leg back to starting position. Switch legs and repeat movement.

TRI-DIP

Works triceps, upper back, core
Repeat 10-12 times



Sit with hips on the edge of a chair, knees bent, feet flat. Place hands on edge of chair, fingers facing forward, arms straight. Lift hips off edge, back straight, abs contracted.



Bend elbows, lowering hips toward ground, squeezing elbows towards each other and stopping before you feel strain in shoulders. Keep back close to edge of chair. Straighten arms and repeat.

BRIDGE

Works core. Repeat 8-10 times



Lying on your back, both feet flat on the floor, arms out to sides, palms facing down. Stabilize abs and begin to roll up the spine, lifting hips off the ground until knees, hips and shoulders form a straight line. Hold this position for five seconds and then roll down the spine to starting position. The movement is slow and smooth.

PUSH-UP

Works chest, arms, core. Repeat 8-12 times



Lying face down on the floor, place your hands slightly wider than shoulders, fingers facing forward, either on toes or knees. Stabilize abs and visualize keeping your body in a straight line.



Raise chest off the ground until arms are straight, but not locked, eyes looking slightly ahead. Lower the chest down until elbows are at a 90 degree angle. Repeat.



A SWEET SECRET
HANDMADE WITH LOVE
IN THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM.
NOW AVAILABLE AT ROB BRUSSELS.

Rob | Boulevard de la Woluwe 28 | 1150 Woluwé-Saint-Pierre | T. 02/771.20.60 | www.rob-brussels.be



STRETCHES



ACTIVE PIGEON

Stretches hip flexors, glutes and abs

From a lunge position, pull left knee in toward right hand, then lower left leg to floor so foot is below right hip. Lower hips as you push through hands, lifting head and chest. Hold for 20-30 seconds then change legs and repeat.

WRIST RESET

Stretches wrist and forearms and releases neck tension

Stand with spine tall and extend your right arm out at shoulder level, palm facing down. Bend wrist to point fingers toward the floor. Use the palm of your left hand to gently push down the back of your right hand. Hold for ten seconds. Point fingers of your right hand toward the ceiling and gently pull back with your left palm. Hold for ten seconds. Switch arms and repeat.



WRAP AROUND

Stretches neck and shoulders

Stand with feet hip-width apart and reach right arm behind your back, palm facing away from you. Clasp hands and pull left elbow back as you draw your shoulder blades together. Hold as you slowly circle your head. Repeat four times and then change hand position.🕒



Patti Bruns is a qualified personal trainer at Aspria Arts-Loi and Royal La Rasante in Brussels and has completed many triathlons, half marathons, and both the New York City and Stockholm marathons. Email for an appointment patti.p2b@gmail.com



HOTELS - RESTAURANTS - SPA - RESIDENCES

SITUÉES EN BORD DE MER ET AU CALME, NOS DEUX ADRESSES DE CHARME VOUS PROPOSENT POUR VOS VACANCES OU LE TEMPS D'UN WEEK-END, UN VASTE ÉVENTAIL DE PRESTATIONS HAUT DE GAMME :



- PLAGES PRIVÉES DE SABLE FIN
- RESTAURANT «LA PINÈDE» CÔTÉ PLAGES
- RESTAURANT «LA PALMERAIE» CÔTÉ BASTIDE
- SPA EN PARTENARIAT AVEC CARITA® ET CINQ MONDES®
- CABANES PERCHÉES DANS LES ARBRES DU DOMAINE
- PARC LUXURIANT ET AUTHENTIQUE
- PISCINES EXTÉRIEURES ET INTÉRIEURES



ESCALE NATURE ET DÉTENTE (2 NUITS) À PARTIR DE 1150 €
INCLUANT PETITS DÉJEUNERS, UN DINER POUR DEUX, UNE HEURE DE SOIN AU SPA PAR PERS.

Qu'importe la conjoncture,
votre épargne prospère en toute sécurité
avec AFER Europe !

3,43% nets* **Taux de rémunération 2011**

3,97% nets* **Moyenne sur les 5 dernières années**

Vous aspirez à une épargne simple, souple et mieux rémunérée, en toute sécurité ?

Rejoignez les épargnants gagnants d'AFER Europe et comme eux, regardez croître votre capital avec force et vigueur, sans prendre aucun risque. Nos résultats le prouvent : en 20 ans, une épargne déposée chez AFER Europe a plus que triplé. **Intéressé ?**



Contactez-nous gratuitement
et sans engagement au

0800 13 143

afer europe +



Les épargnants gagnants

Av. Lloyd George 6 - 1000 Bruxelles
Tél : 02.627.47.00 - Fax : 02.627.47.17
www.lesepargnantsgagnants.be
info@afer-europe.com

Diamonds are still forever

The Belgian economy may be suffering, but financial writer **Laura Cohn** discovers that diamond sales are booming

For nearly 30 years, Miguel Sureda, president of DiamondLand, an unpretentious diamond shop in the heart of Antwerp's high-security diamond quarter, marketed most of his individually-sold stones to western brides or wealthy septuagenarians who visited Belgium's second city for a tasteful setting to commemorate landmark birthdays and anniversaries towards the end of their long lives.

No longer. Now, with Europe's economy in the doldrums and the US faring only marginally better, the customers who come through his store

are more likely to be 35-year-old Chinese buyers looking for large, high-quality stones. In fact, Sureda estimates more than half his private sales now go to customers from the Middle Kingdom.

"The mood is so different," says Sureda, who has a Mandarin-speaking saleswoman on his shop floor. "The force that's there is so tremendous."

While the rest of Belgium's economy may be struggling to pull out of a double-dip recession, the \$57 billion diamond business in Antwerp, where 80 percent of the world's rough diamonds and 50 percent of its polished diamonds are traded, is humming, thanks to Chinese clients.

NEW RICH

In 2008, when the US economy stumbled after the demise of Lehman Brothers, demand surged for polished diamonds in Hong Kong, the key gateway to the Chinese market, and for the first time it actually surpassed the US, the long-time number one buyer. Overall, Hong Kong took in some 20 percent of Belgium's diamond export that year. In 2010, that figure jumped to nearly 23 percent. Over the same period, mainland China became the seventh largest export market, up from the tenth largest. And the most recent figures show China and Hong Kong >

“Chinese buyers sometimes quickly drop as much as €30,000 for a good two-carat stone”

Photograph: © Shutterstock





MIGUEL SUREDA, PRESIDENT OF ANTWERP'S DIAMONDLAND

India and the Middle East – has pushed prices to the highest level for more than a generation. Last year, the benchmark Rapaport Diamond Index for one-carat round diamonds rose 17 percent, the biggest gain since 1986. So far this year, prices have come off their highs, though they remain close to last year's levels.

The price gains have also been driven by the role of diamonds as a store of value. At a time when questions hang over the global economy – from the outcome of the euro crisis to the durability of the US recovery – investors want a safe,

buy 25 percent of the diamonds that leave Antwerp each month.

Sitting in his office just off the showroom floor, Sureda chalks it up to pent-up demand of the new rich. "If you didn't have something for two generations, you want it more," he says. Chinese buyers sometimes quickly drop as much as €30,000 for a good two-carat stone, he adds. "I cannot see any Chinese client longer than ten minutes

before he proposes buying something," says Sureda, who speaks eight languages, plus enough Mandarin to "make the customer laugh".

SURGE IN DEMAND

High-end diamond retailers want to join the party. New

York-based Tiffany hopes to open three new stores in China in the coming months. Toronto-based Harry Winston, famous for adorning Hollywood celebrities with its baubles at the Oscar's, also aims to open three new stores in China soon.

The surge in demand from China – as well as other emerging markets such as

tangible place to put their money. "People, even in booming markets, know things can go south," notes Marcel Pruwer, managing director of the Antwerp-based consulting firm International Economic Strategy, and a 30-year veteran of the business.

BUYER BEWARE

It is the same impetus that has driven up gold prices in recent months. But unlike gold, which is traded on markets from New York to London, investing in diamonds can be fraught. If you want to buy a diamond as an investment, take the time to find a reputable dealer, and only buy one with a certificate from GIA, IGI or HRD. Also, smaller diamonds can be hard to sell, making it a somewhat illiquid asset; for a private individual, selling a stone that's three to five carats is easier than one that weighs a half-carat. Diamonds don't provide dividends or interest, but they do tend to appreciate over time. According to Rapaport, \$10,000 invested in 5-carat diamonds 10 years ago would now be worth \$16,450. That's better than what you would have earned putting the money in the NASDAQ or the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

"The thing about diamonds is, they don't wear," says Pruwer. "And it's not something you'll check on your Blackberry three times a day." ❏

“Diamonds don't provide dividends or interest, but they do tend to appreciate over time”



ing.be



Contact us at ing.be/expat

Are you an expatriate? If so, you need support and advice. That's exactly what ING can provide for all your banking and insurance requirements. Our ING Expats service deals with everything,

even before you arrive in Belgium: accounts, bank cards, rental guarantee, etc. To find out what ING can do for you, don't hesitate to call one of our advisors on + 32 (0)2 464 66 64.

ING Belgium SA/nv – Bank – avenue Marnix 24, B-1000 Brussels – Brussels RPM/RPR – VAT BE 0403.200.393 – BIC (SWIFT): BBRUBEBB – IBAN: BE45 3109 1560 2789 (Account: 310-9156027-89). Publisher: Philippe Wallez, cours Saint-Michel 60, 1040 Brussels.



Think
Spring

Fashion model Sverre with
Marat, the Weimar hound;
Sverre wears shirt by FilippaK
and scarf by JeanPaul Knott
© Fred Chapotat



DISCOVER GOLF!



Did you always dream of hitting a ball
but never dared to take the step?
This is the right moment to take action!

Golf de Pierpont, located south of Brussels,
invites you to subscribe to an Open Day
- including 1h30 of golf initiation -

Every Sunday until November | More info on our website | Reservation obliged (EUR 5)



Chemin Grand Pierpont 1 • B-6210 Les Bons Villers
Tel: +32 (0)71 880 830 • E-mail: info@pierpont.be
Site: www.pierpont.be

Think Spring

12,000 PEOPLE DANCED
ON THE BEACH IN OSTEND
FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE
EARTH CAMPAIGN



NIC BALTHAZAR
ADDRESSES
DANCERS ON THE
BEACH AT OSTEND

Singing to save the planet

Belgian film director Nic Balthazar talks
to **Emma Portier Davis** about putting
climate change back on the agenda

Nic Balthazar shot to international fame with his movie *Ben X* about an adolescent suffering with Asperger Syndrome who flees to a virtual world of video games, scooping awards at the Montreal Film Festival. His movie about the first Belgian to win the right to die under the euthanasia law, *Tot Altijd (Time of my Life)*, took the Berlin European Film Festival by storm, winning distribution deals in Italy, Turkey, Switzerland – and even Iran, not known for its love of movies by Western producers.

In the run up to the 2009 talks in Copenhagen for a global deal on climate change, Balthazar directed the Friends of the Earth's film clip of 12,000 people dancing for the climate on the beach at Ostend. At the time, a host of Hollywood >

“It’s a little more sexy to ask people to come to do a film clip rather than a protest march”

stars graced the covers of dedicated green issues of *Vanity Fair* and *Marie-Claire* airing their views on the climate change issue. But where are the celebrities now?

CELEBRITY BANDWAGON

“The momentum on the whole ecological movement seems to have totally gone,” says Balthazar.

A television and radio presenter, reporter and producer as well as a film director, Balthazar claims he is not just another celebrity who jumped on the climate change bandwagon when the topic was hot and ditched it when the talks in Copenhagen failed to produce a global treaty: he is busy with his next campaign.

“I call myself a positive pessimist and I’m ready to take up the battle again.”

Together with Friends of the Earth, Balthazar is planning the next round of what he describes as “cinemactivism”: protest marches mixed with film. In

September he hopes to make a film of thousands of people singing for the climate in cities across Belgium.

CONFIDENT

And he says he’s confident this will work. “It’s a little more sexy to ask people to come to do a film clip rather than a protest march where often you can’t hear their slogans or read their signs,” says Balthazar. “Their message will be, we are doomed to remain optimistic. We can’t afford to be pessimistic.”

The song they’ll use has not yet been decided, although

Balthazar did attempt to lobby singer/songwriter and former Beatle Paul McCartney during his visit last year to the European Parliament, giving him the film clips from *Dance for the Climate*.

“He left them on his desk,” says Balthazar. “We’ll go for an existing song.”

Despite the fact there have been two more rounds of climate change talks since Copenhagen, in Durban and Cancun, it seems the world is no closer to a global treaty. No country wants to make emission cuts and risk economic growth without everyone else doing the same. In these post-credit crunch days of austerity, people could perhaps be forgiven for focusing on their immediate economic needs. But Balthazar, like many environmental activists, warns that this is exactly the problem.

“This whole financial crisis, this is exactly what the ecological movement has predicted for ages. But it kind of annoys people to hear this. They would rather listen to the same fairytale that when we all consume more, we will finally get out of the rut we are in.”

ARDENT ECOLOGIST

Balthazar shrugs off his celebrity status – “the name and function don’t interest me at all” – yet defends those who have left the field. “If you stick your neck out, you are bound to get your head shot off. For fundamentalists, these are guys who come on, make a show and disappear on a plane.”

While known on his home turf as an ardent ecologist, whose first television appearance was on a show about the environment, Balthazar is currently hosting a travel show. He’s willing to confess that by encouraging people to take heavily polluting planes to see the world, he too could be accused of hypocrisy.

But when it comes to the climate, Balthazar points out “I would not go around scaring people were it not for the fact that I’m scared myself.”



DANCING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE



LE VÉHICULE ÉLECTRIQUE POUR TOUS EST LÀ. NOUVELLE GAMME RENAULT Z.E. 100 % ÉLECTRIQUE, 0% ÉMISSION. DISPONIBLE DÈS MAINTENANT*.

www.renault-ze.com



CHANGEONS DE VIE
CHANGEONS L’AUTOMOBILE



* À l’usage, hors pièces d’usure. Renault Fluence Z.E., Kangoo Z.E. et Twizy : disponibles chez votre concessionnaire dès maintenant. ZOE : disponible en octobre 2012.



RENAULT PLAINE
Bld. de la Plaine, 21
1050 BRUXELLES (Ixelles)
02/644.30.30

RENAULT DROGENBOS
Av. W. A. Mozart, 20
1620 DROGENBOS
02/370.12.00

www.rrg.be

Let's face it

Put on a fresh face for spring by indulging in a spa or salon facial. **Ann Cordell** explains what's involved

Those who indulge in regular facials swear by the benefits, but a word of warning before choosing a salon – it is best to get a personal recommendation, because a bad or inexperienced esthetician can do more harm than good. Yet regular facials at a reputed salon will keep skin looking bright and moist, as well as helping deal with recurring problems such as acne.

Most facials are a combination of deep cleansing, exfoliating and hydrating and should include an analysis of the skin beforehand to assess its condition and determine skin type. The skin is first thoroughly cleansed to rid it of all traces of make-up and impurities. Then comes a gentle exfoliation to remove dead skin cells. A relaxing yet energizing facial massage which stimulates circulation is the best part of the process. It will often be either preceded or followed by extraction if necessary, often using steam to open pores to help aid the process. It is an uncomfortable process, but not unbearable, and best left in the hands of an expert. A variety of treatment masks will be followed by the application of the correct creams for face, neck and eyes. Neck and chest should receive the same attention as the face during a salon facial, as they should at home.

Most salons stick to one brand of facial, but the salon attached to fragrance boutique and cosmetics shop *Senteurs d'Ailleurs* on the Place Stephanie in Brussels offers customers a choice of treatments developed by three different product

brands – Dermalogica, La Mer and Eve Lom. Treatment rooms are spotless, with fresh linen, towels and robes – there can be few things worse than being offered a grubby robe worn by the previous customer, sadly the case in many a salon.

The Dermalogica face treatment comes with the company's trademark skin analysis and the skincare therapist talks the customer through every stage of the treatment. Customers can opt for either a 60 minute or 90 minute facial and there are lots of add-ons available. From €85 for a 60 minute facial which includes massage, the treatments are also available for men.

The esthetician doesn't talk at all during the 60 minute La Mer revitalizing facial, and extraction is against the principles of the brand. At €105, it includes a therapeutic hand and arm massage during the face mask. The 90 minute ultimate facial starts with reflexology massage of the feet which adds to a sense of relaxation and well-being.

Customers choosing the Eve Lom 60 ultimate cleanse (€95) will experience the brand's hot cloth method to cleanse skin and a hot paraffin wax mask followed by extraction before the application of treatment products. A 90 minute signature facial includes half an hour of lymphatic drainage and massage.

Full body treatments for all brands are also available, as are other treatments such as waxing, tinting, manicure, pedicure and makeup. ☘



“regular facials at a reputed salon will keep skin looking bright”



Photographs: © Frederik Veercruyse

Missed a past issue?
visit us online at
www.togethertmag.eu



10 HOTELS • 1 SPA • 6 CITIES
A COLLECTION OF GREAT HOSPITALITY



martinshotels.com • martinspa.com

Think Spring

MOISTURISE AND PROTECT WITH **CHANEL HYDRA BEAUTY SERUM** €95,59/50ML AND **HYDRA BEAUTY GEL CREAM** €61,02/50G

PLUMP AND ILLUMINATE SKIN WITH **ROC RADIANCE REJUVENATE RADIANCE ACTIVATING WATER** €11,95/200ML

Spring-clean skin

Welcome spring with a fresh face using these products to cleanse, plump, firm, illuminate, moisturise and protect skin. Cover up any imperfections before making eyes and lips dazzle with the season's new colours. Finish with a spritz of flowery scent.

AVAILABLE IN TWO SHADES, COVER IMPERFECTIONS AND GO FOR A HEALTHY GLOW
ESTÉE LAUDER DAYWEAR BEAUTY BENEFIT CREME €37,80/30ML

CLINIQUE REPAIRWEAR UPLIFTING FIRMING CREAM €75,50/50ML

CHANEL HYDRA BEAUTY SÉRUM
HYDRATATION PROTECTION ÉCLAT
HYDRATION PROTECTION RADIANCE

CHANEL HYDRA BEAUTY GEL CRÈME
HYDRATATION PROTECTION ÉCLAT
HYDRATION PROTECTION RADIANCE

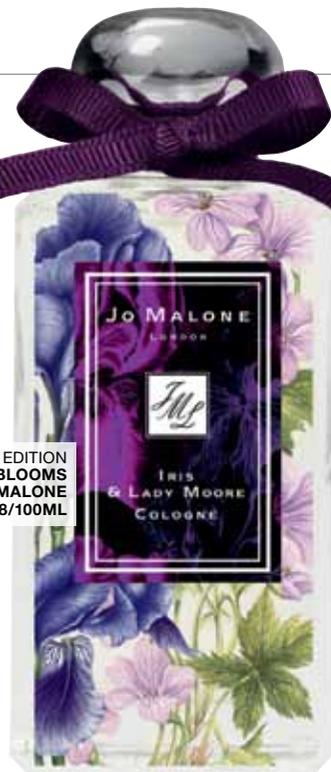
ESTÉE LAUDER DayWear B·B
Anti-Oxidant Beauty Benefit Creme
Crème beauté multi-action anti-oxydante
SPF 35

CLINIQUE repairwear uplifting
firming cream / crème raffermissante
DRY COMBINATION / COMBINATION OILY / MIXTE

Think Spring



LIMITED EDITION
LONDON BLOOMS
JO MALONE
€88/100ML



Une idée, une création,

Fleurs de ma Passion

POUR
ÉNÉNEMENTS,
MARIAGES,
COMMUNIONS,



YVES ST
LAURENT
ROUGE PUR
COUTURE €31



YSL GOLDEN
GLOSS €28



YVES SAINT LAURENT'S
SUMMER LOOK



YSL WATERPROOF
EYE PENCIL €21



YSL VOLUME
EFFECT
WATERPROOF
MASCARA €31

Photographs: © Yves Saint Laurent



Chaussée de Bruxelles 107
Waterloo • 02 354 67 65

www.fleursdemapassion.be
fleursdemapassion@waterloo.eu



PHOTOGRAPHER
Fred Chapotat

STYLIST
Nicholas Sirot

HAIR AND MAKE-UP
David Bettega
for Yves Saint Laurent and
L'Oreal Professional

MODELS
Celine Moniquet
of Dominique Models Agency
Sverre Denis of IMM International
Model Management, Brussels

LOCATION
Brussels apartment of artist
Benjamin Spark

Let the sun shine in

Time to dust off winter and let these
spring fashion colours bring a breath
of fresh air to your wardrobe

SVERRE WEARS JACKET, SHIRT
AND SCARF BY **DEGAND**
BUSINESS WITH PERFUME BY
YSL LA NUIT DE L'HOMME

CELINE WEARS TOP AND SKIRT
BY **AGNÈS B** WITH MAKE UP BY
YVES SAINT LAURENT



CELINE WEARS TOP AND SHORTS BY AGNÈS B; BRACELET BY SONIA RYKIEL; SHOES BY YELLOW MELLOW; SUNGLASSES BY MARC JACOBS



SVERRE WEARS JACKET AND SHIRT BY DEGAND BUSINESS; TROUSERS BY PAUL SMITH AT BALTHAZAR

Think Spring



SVERRE WEARS SUIT BY PAUL SMITH AT BALTHAZAR; SHIRT BY LACOSTE

CELINE WEARS DRESS BY JEANPAUL KNOTT; BRACELETS BY HERMES



napapijri.com

NAPAPIJRI



INTERSPORT

One of a kind

As the gentlemen's outfitter Maison Degand approaches its 30th birthday, **Delphine Stefens** talks to founder Pierre Degand

Tailor Pierre Degand opened his first shop in the Belgian seaside town of Knokke in 1974 with the financial support of his mother who went to the coast every weekend to help him out. About a decade later, an opportunity arose to set up in Brussels where he set his heart on an imposing townhouse that came up for sale in the Avenue Louise. Located at the other end of the avenue from the commercial centres of Place Louise and Place Stephanie and their boutiques, there would be no passing trade and Degand suspected there would be initial resistance to its grandeur. But he took the plunge, believing it the perfect setting for his handcrafted products. The gamble paid off, and time has proved him right. Maison Degand, granted a royal warrant in 2007, is now spread over three adjacent buildings and has become a popular destination for customers in search of quality and service in elegant surroundings.

HEAD TO TOE

Degand, 58, differed from most of his contemporaries in what he wanted to offer his clientele, rejecting the idea of branding or marketing. Instead, his philosophy, which holds true today, was "to provide the best possible products at the best possible price". Degand Tailleur was established in 1983, Degand Sport for more casual attire welcomed its first clients in 1996 and Degand Business, the



EXCLUSIVE RETAILER FOR PARISIAN COBBLER PIERRE CORTHAY



PIERRE DEGAND

more contemporary and accessible option for suits, in 2003. Sport and Business are managed by Pierre Degand's wife Michèle and were merged into one in 2010 when a separate space for shoes also saw the light of day. Three separate departments feature bespoke, semi-bespoke and ready-to-wear, a combination capable of dressing a man from head to toe for any occasion, be it day or night, indoors or out. And there's more: perfume, accessories and jewellery, the common denominator being quality.

Degand works mainly with Italian manufacturers and workshops and some British suppliers, the idea being to find the best fabrics and materials and have them handcrafted or machine finished depending on the end product in mind. He also stocks brand names, but only those that meet his own taste and quality-price ratio. One of the advantages

of the way Degand works is the variety of options he makes available to clients. For instance, a brand may choose to make a particular pullover in a limited range of seasonal colors, whereas Degand can have it made according to his or his clientele's preference.

MIX AND MATCH

Timeless rather than classic is how Degand defines the house style, but customers are able to mix and match and personalize their own look, an example being the client who opts for bespoke shirts but wears off-the-peg suits to achieve a tighter fit and more modern look.

Degand points out that the choice of a resolutely modern shoe will pep up a more traditional

“Timeless rather than classic is how Degand defines the house style”

silhouette in clothes, the devil being in the detail. And he definitely has an eye for detail as well as a good memory – he's the sort of man who will remember the coat a customer was wearing when he last saw them three months ago, an invaluable asset when helping clients develop style and wardrobe. To complete the Masion Degand experience, Degand says he allowed his 18-year-old daughter Emily – passionate about food and brimming with ideas – talk him into having a tearoom on the premises that will open some time next year. A bold move considering the present economic climate but definitely one that will delight his loyal customers. And it will be something to look forward to as well as being the perfect venue to celebrate a happy birthday. ☺

www.degand.be



DEGAND DRESSES CUSTOMERS FROM HEAD TO TOE



REDKEN
5TH AVENUE NYC

Think Spring

VICTORIA'S SIZZORS
hair, style and elegance

GOEDESTRAAT 30 - 3078 MEERBEEK • Phone: 02-767 22 47 • www.victoriassizzors.com
TUE-THU: 9u.00-22u.00 • SAT: 8u.00-16u.00 • MON-WED: Closed



FOR SALE

Nachtegalenlaan, 16
3080 Tervuren

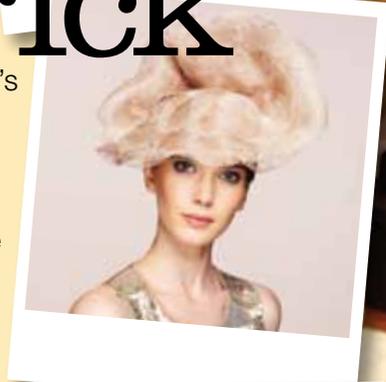
€425.000
160 sq. meters
+/- 5 acres
Tel: 0497 54 36 72

A beautiful villa in Tervuren (Moorsel) in a residential area with easy access to Brussels, the airport and international schools. Complementing the four bedrooms, one bathroom, and one shower room is an office, a spacious living room, a fully fitted kitchen, a garage and a beautiful sunny garden.



Hat trick

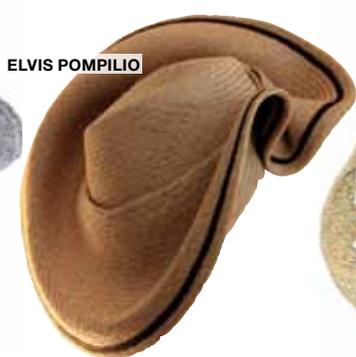
Designer Fabienne Delvigne's Brussels studio in the Woluwe St Pierre's Rue Andre Fauchille is full to the brim with hats galore. Holder of a royal warrant since 2001 and said to be a favourite of Queen Paola, the women of the royal families of The Netherlands, Sweden and Luxembourg also wear her creations. Delvigne's summer collection is right on trend with shiny straw bell-shaped hats in pastel colours; the couture collection uses pearly shells, delicate feathers and silver thread and is a riot of colour ranging in style from discreet to flamboyant, all of them simply crying out for a summer wedding. Panama hats for men come in caramel, chocolate, burnt bread and navy blue. ☺



Think Spring



DIESEL



ELVIS POMPILIO



MAIS IL EST OU LE SOLEIL?

Natty hats

From haute couture to ready-to-wear, there's no shortage of hats this season to suit any occasion



HOSS INTROPIA



LA MODISTE



ARIANE LESPIRE



PATRIZIA PEPE



PAULE KA



7 PM
HAVING A
DRINK WITH
MY FRIENDS



THE BEST PART OF THE DAY
MY OUTDOOR MOMENTS

Modular Zendo collection
Mood lounge and coffee tables in glass and Trespa®
Open sidetable in anodised aluminium

Collections, points of sale and information www.manutti.com



Poliform

Dominique Rigo
opens the doors to contemporary design.

POLIFORM AT DOMINIQUE RIGO 210 RUE DE STALLE - 1180 BRUSSELS

AGAPE / ALIAS / ARCO / ARKETIPO / ARTEMIDE / B&B ITALIA / CAPPELLINI / CASALIS / CASAMILANO
CASSINA / CLASSICON / DESALTO / EMECO / ERBA MOBILI / EXTREMIS / FIAM / FLEXFORM
FLOS / FONTANA ARTE / FOSCARINI / FRITZ HANSEN / GALOTTI & RADICE / HUGUES CHEVALIER
INGO MAURER / INTERLÜBKE / KARTELL / KNOLL / LAGO / LIGNE ROSSET / LIMITED EDITION
LUCEPLAN / MAXALTO / MDF ITALIA / NEMO / PAOLA LENTI / PASTOE / **POLIFORM** / POLTRONA FRAU
SAHCO HESSLEIN / SIMON / TOULEMONDE BOCHART / VARENNA / VITRA /

info + 32 [0]2 649 95 94 info@dominiquerigo.be www.dominiquerigo.be

 dominique rigo
contemporary interiors since 1974

Think Spring

Hat's divine

For the past few seasons, plenty of hats have been spotted both on and off the catwalk, a trend that's still going strong this spring and will stay true all the way into next winter. Make the most of sunny weather while staying cool and protected in fun, fashionable and stylish summery headgear. Anyone looking for a unique piece for that special occasion could do no better than a visit to Belgium's national darling Christophe Coppens, who has moved his workshop and showroom to the Rue des Tanneurs in Brussels. His shop remains on the corner of Rue Léon Lepage and Rue Antoine Dansaert. The new location is set in a

turn of the century building that was once a department store. The glass ceiling and handsome decor instantly transport clients into Coppens's universe where millinery is art. ♡

By appointment only. www.christophecoppens.com





TRILBIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

The trilby is a type of fedora but with a slightly smaller brim which should be worn angled down at the front and slightly turned up at the back

FOR MEN



NEW COLLECTION

LOAFERS

GOODYEAR WELTED LEATHER SOLES

BROWN PATINA 229€ - DARK BROWN SUEDE & BLACK BOX CALF 209€

BRUSSELS - RUE DE NAMUR 97 (NEXT TO PORTE DE NAMUR)
 IXELLES - LOUISE GALLERY 126 (PLACE STEPHANIE ENTRANCE)
 WATERLOO - PASSAGE WELLINGTON 37

02 502 69 59 - INFO@BENSON-SHOES.BE - WWW.BENSON-SHOES.BE

LIFE OF LEISURE



**Aerial view of
Fakarava, second
largest atoll in
the Tuamotu
Archipelago,
French Polynesia**
© Christian Bieber

Discover the other French Polynesia

The secrets of secluded islands shared by travel writer
Tatiana Praxis with photos by **Christian Bieber**

RANGIROA
PRIVATE MOTU



THE WATERS OF
TIKEHAU ARE RICH
IN FISH SPECIES

A couple ambles ankle-deep in clear blue water at the edge of a pristine, palm tree-lined stretch of pink sand. They stop occasionally to observe the small black tip reef shark or parrotfish that sometimes venture just a metre from the shore. Here at the Pearl Beach Resort hotel of Tikehau, a small oval shaped atoll of the Tuamotu Archipelago in French Polynesia, the only hustle and bustle travellers will encounter will be underwater. Activity on the surface of this 27 km-long coral reef is limited, but the underwater fauna is arguably the richest in fish species in all of French Polynesia, and the ideal playground for scuba divers and snorkelers.

Bora Bora and Moorea are the obvious choices for honeymooners and dreamers who seek to find paradise on

the other side of the world, yet more and more visitors to the Pacific islands set out to explore the wilder, but equally divine atolls of the Tuamotus. The “dangerous islands”, as circumnavigators and explorers called them due to their menacingly low appearance, are starting to cater for a clientele that prefers to skip the overpopulated favourites to find their own piece of paradise.

SECLUDED LUXURY

The Tuamotus are a scuba diver's Mecca. On any given dive in Rangiroa, the most visited part of the archipelago, a diver may spot dolphins, manta rays, black tip sharks, sea turtles and even hammerhead sharks. Not expecting much in terms of accommodation, divers created a reputation for the island that soon attracted more sophisticated travellers with a taste for luxury. The >

TIKEHAU PEARL
BEACH RESORT

overwater bungalows mainly associated with Bora Bora blossomed from there.

The luxurious Kia Ora Resort & Spa on Rangiroa was closed through most of 2011 to upgrade to its current 5-star status. Overwater

bungalows have been revamped and garden villas now include their own private pools. For an unforgettable experience, the resort organises excursions to the Blue Lagoon, a

lagoon within the lagoon of the Rangiroa atoll, or to a private *motu*, one of the myriad islands that form an atoll. It doesn't get anymore secluded than that.

For shark observers, Fakarava, the Tuamotus' second largest atoll is a must.

The UNESCO-classified biosphere reserve is known for its "wall of sharks". The White Sand Beach Resort of Fakarava organises excursions to the south pass where divers will see

hundreds of sharks. The resort is fairly simple in comparison with its Rangiroa and Tikehau counterparts, but features significantly less visitors so that guests don't need to venture very far for utmost privacy.

“guests
don't need to
venture very
far for utmost
privacy”

MANTA RAY SANCTUARY

Both Tikehau and Manihi feature a Pearl Beach Resort, a high-end chain found on six Polynesian islands. Each of them has its own dive centre and offers a plethora of activities for guests in the most

exceptional settings. Much bigger in size than Tikehau, Manihi is also known as a manta ray sanctuary and accommodates few guests, perfect for those attempting escape from the busy pace of daily life.

Just an hour-and-a-half flight away from Tahiti, those wishing to sample the different atolls of the Tuamotu Archipelago may do so by purchasing a lagoon pass. Island hopping has never been faster than with Air Tahiti's flight package that includes visits to Moorea, Rangiroa, Tikehau, Manihi and Fakarava. The only condition is that travellers cannot return to the same island twice and must depart and return to Tahiti.

SMOOTH SAILING

If constant packing and unpacking does not appeal, then the rocking motion of the sea may be more attractive, and a yacht charter could be the best option. The

Dream Yacht Charter offers the Atoll Dream cruise, an all-inclusive weeklong solution. A luxury four cabin catamaran can be booked as a whole or per cabin. Several yacht charters now allow experienced sailors to charter without crew, upon confirmation of experience.

For cruise ship enthusiasts, the MS Paul Gauguin combines the Society Islands with the Tuamotus, for a week on the move in the Pacific. The ship features an onboard water sports marina and a spa among the 5-star services available on board and 70 percent of the cabins have private balconies. ¹⁰

*Air Tahiti Lagoon Pass: €530 adult
Kia Ora Resort & Spa: from €516
White Sands Resort, Fakarava: from €312
Pearl Beach Resorts: from €552
Atoll Dream 8-day/7-night cruise: from
€1,385 pp for a double
Paul Gauguin ten-night cruise €3,595 pp*

RANGIROA
PRIVATE MOTU



THE CATHEDRAL OF SANTA MARIA DE PALMA TOWERS OVER THE TOWN

Balearic bliss

Palma de Mallorca, a major port city on the island of Mallorca and the capital of Spain's Balearic Islands, displays an architectural blend of African and European heritage. Home to around 400,000 people, **Julia Brandon** discovered it to be the largest city on Mallorca and increasingly a Mediterranean destination for ultra high net worth individuals

Located on the south-west coast of the island, it is the charm of the old town blended with the allure of the yacht harbour that has seen Palma transform in recent years into a playground for the elite. The lack of tides and strong currents make Palma a haven for yachting, not to mention the many protective coves and moorings.

Its buildings are a pluricultural mix of Gothic, Moorish and Renaissance styles, but it is the grand *La Seu* – or the Cathedral of Santa Maria de Palma – that the city is best known for. A Gothic Roman Catholic cathedral, it took almost 400 years to complete, and between 1901 and 1914 benefited from the discerning eye of iconic Spanish architect

Antoni Gaudi. Although his involvement was relatively short-lived, his influence can be witnessed throughout Palma by way of several other minor projects that he completed, including the restoration of the Chapel of San Bernardo, the design for the floor tiling in the parish church of Pollença and reform work on the Episcopal Palace.

The winding streets behind the cathedral give way to grand churches, beaches, fountains and Bellver Castle. While the Plaça Major is the largest of the city's squares, it is the striking, ancient olive tree with its thick, twisted trunk located in the Plaça de Cort that makes the biggest impression.

Come evening time, Palma offers a variety of entertainment from live jazz to bustling DJ bars. Lambada dancing takes place at the club Made in Brasil, while Tito's is a must for the chic or eccentric. It

is claimed that Ray Charles and Marlene Dietrich used to dance there.

MINIMALIST HAVEN

Housed in a restored 18th century town palace in Palma old town's neighbourhood of La Lonja, Puro Hotel is a minimalist haven in the heart of the city.

Combining contemporary luxury with Spanish influence, this boutique urban oasis offers a no-compromise setting with a refreshing and funky feel. A South Beach, Miami, meets Marrakech experience was the original design vision of Swedish owner Mats Wahlstrom and interior designer Gabrielle Jangeby back in 2004, and this theme has evolved as both Wahlstrom and Puro's clientele have moved with the times.

Having opened a private wing in late 2011, the retreat now comprises 51 rooms and suites, complete with daybed >

“Relaxing has never been so effortless”

Photograph: © Shutterstock



WATERFRONT AT THE PURO HOTEL



CONTEMPORARY LUXURY IN ONE OF THE BEDROOMS AT THE PURO HOTEL



THE WINDING STREETS OF PALMA'S OLD TOWN

patios, roof deck jacuzzis, and private terraces. The new wing also offers a 24-hour concierge service, open fireplace for those chillier nights, and a kitchen and private dining area for groups with their own chefs. Striking artwork by Peter Grondahl adorns the walls, while pieces from British furniture brand Halo Angel lend a modern twist.

In prime proximity to the yacht harbour, coveted shops and restaurants, and historic centre, Palma is the first and so far only Puro hotel. But Wahlstrom has plans for expansion, citing Marrakech as the next possible location for a Puro twin.

COFFEE IS SERVED

The Cappuccino Grand Cafe opened its doors in Paseo del Borne, Palma, in March last year. Located in the heart of the luxury-shopping district, it forms part of the ubiquitous Cappuccino coffee group, popular with the city's chic,

discerning coffee drinkers. This particular venue, however, was designed by American Michael Smith, who rose to

recognition after reforming the White House at the request of the Obamas. With a sun terrace positioned between the Plaza de las Tortugas and the Paseo del Borne, it has quickly become a favourite with the locals.

RELAX

Perched on the tip of a mini peninsula, Puro Beach Palma Bay is an unrivalled lifestyle concept by the sea. With lounge beds, pool-side spa treatments and its own DJ-mixed music selection, Puro Beach is the very definition of cool.

Relaxing has never been so effortless. From early afternoon until late at night, guests are lulled into a carefree environment, capped with an unrivalled view of the sun setting behind the Palma mountains.

With Puro Beaches cropping up across Spain, Egypt and the Middle East, it is a brand of service beaches that the privileged will want to keep an eye on.

EATING OUT

The cuisine of the island is typically Balearic with many dishes, such as sobrasada, displaying a traditional Mediterranean influence with full flavours and the use of local spices including paprika. However, for a pluricultural experience, Tahini Sushi Bar & Restaurant arguably serves the best Japanese cuisine on the island. Located in the exclusive marina Puerto Portals, around a 30-minute drive from central Palma, Tahini is frequented by gourmets who favour its fresh raw ingredients and mouth-watering recipes. The only restaurant in the Grupo Cappuccino portfolio, the owner and head chef travel to Japan each year to ensure the food is as authentic as possible. The tuna tartar or the foie and truffle soup are particular favourites.

For one night's stay at Puro Hotel based on two people sharing, prices start at €285 for a double superior room, €375 for a junior suite, and €515 for a penthouse suite. All prices include breakfast and are exclusive of VAT.

TAKE THE PRIVILEGED PATH

While Mallorca boasts some of the hottest beach clubs, restaurants, and bars in the Balearic Islands, gaining insight and access to some of its best-kept secrets can take time and effort. It's far better to sit back, relax and let the experts do the legwork for you.

Mallorca Label is a private concierge service offering its members exclusive access – even at the eleventh hour – to a selection of the most premium establishments in the whole of Mallorca. Each venue is vetted on its level of service, location and quality of product, so that Mallorca Label can guarantee only the very best VIP treatment to all its members.

Set up in 2009 by PR and events experts Luisa Catalan and Ivan Lorger, the Mallorca Label team are privy to all the latest events, sexy resorts, private beach areas and newest hotspots around, shared only with their members.

Born in Palma de Mallorca, and with more than 10 years in international events and marketing, Luisa knows every corner of the island in detail. Ivan, meanwhile is a PR guru, and having lived on the island for more than 12 years, boasts an extensive network of contacts.

“Together, Luisa and I form the perfect partnership, able to arrange anything a customer requests in a very short space of time,” says Ivan. “We won't stop until we've achieved complete client satisfaction, and ensured that our members make the most of their experiences while in Mallorca.”

Every member of Mallorca Label receives a personalised card with the team's contact details, ensuring that the concierge service is available to members by phone or email seven days a week. While dealing with requests at a moment's notice, the team will also negotiate the best deal possible, saving members both time and money. With so much on offer, it's almost impossible to think of a reason not to sign up. JB ☺

PATISSERIE
MICHEL d'OHAIN



OHAIN • BRAINE-L'ALLEUD • WATERLOO

Teaching teenagers how to cook

It is a truth universally acknowledged that teenagers know everything, according to **Jules Crosbie**, and that they are always right. So, he wonders, why can't they cook?



LEARNING TO COOK IN
MIDGE SHIRLEY'S KITCHEN

Former Brussels resident Midge Shirley can take youngsters from clueless to competent in the kitchen in just a few days. She runs one-week residential cookery classes for small groups of teenagers at her country house in the Charente-Maritime region of France. Thank you letters from the students and their parents confirm that Midge's Teencooks formula really works.

The courses are held in the spring and summer school holidays, for a maximum of five students at a time, aged 15-18. They arrive on a Sunday and leave the following Saturday. Sometimes they are dropped off by parents holidaying in the area; otherwise they are collected from and returned to the nearest railway stations or airports by Midge and her husband. From Brussels and Lille there are good train connections by TGV.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

A Teencooks student is often accompanied by a best friend from school, so they will share a twin room in the lovely old stone house. The students have their own bathrooms and a sitting-room equipped with TV and DVD player. The house is located next to a river, set in a quiet hamlet dotted with old watermills and the occasional small chateau. It has a spacious walled garden and a family-sized swimming-pool.

"It's what's called a safe environment," says Midge. "So it's really boring if you want to go binge-drinking among the >

LIFE OF LEISURE

bright lights.”

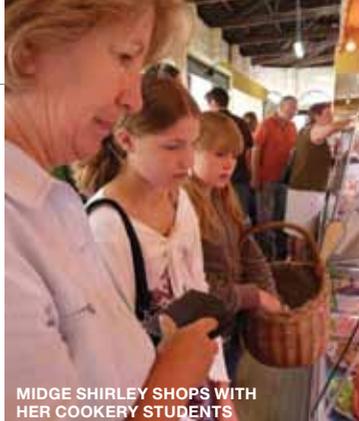
Co-author of the cookery book *A Taste of the Belgian Provinces*, Midge was a restaurant critic in Brussels, where she also ran her own cookery school, giving adult evening classes. While I was meeting her in France, a neighbouring Brit came round with his dog. Midge mentioned that she had just bought some fresh monkfish liver at a bargain price, which would perk up the dog. But would she feed it to her teenagers? “Well, they’d probably find it too fishy and strange. What they most like are puddings.”

LOCAL PRODUCE

This is where her experience comes in as regards designing the content of the courses. Students learn at least three recipes a day, which they then eat for lunch and supper around a table on the garden terrace. The cookery lessons include plenty of knowledge about food and how to shop for it and include trips to nearby markets, where there is an abundance of good local produce. There is also lots of practical, hands-on culinary instruction, starting with basics such as knife skills and mixing dough. “You can’t assume they know what seems pretty elementary, so I have to be attentive,” says Midge. “Some of my students clearly do have ability in the kitchen, but others are first-timers.” As well as preparation and laying the table, the less glamorous tasks of clearing up and stacking the dishwasher afterwards are also included.

RELAXED

Since the courses take place in school holidays, the daily schedule is fairly relaxed, with time off for swimming, sunbathing, table tennis or maybe going to see a Bastille



MIDGE SHIRLEY SHOPS WITH HER COOKERY STUDENTS

“What they most like are puddings”



Day firework display at night. The Charente-Maritime is the second sunniest region in France. If required (usually by the parents), Midge can bring in a local teenager to join the students and improve their conversational French. Many of them are awaiting exam results, and the cookery course provides a useful distraction as well as a week’s relief for equally exam-stressed parents.

Despite its rural location, the house has broadband internet access and the recipe instructions can be consulted with the swipe of a floury finger on the iPad in its kitchen docking station.

When they go home, armed with a set of the recipes they have practised, do the students remember what they have learned? “Mostly they seem to want to take over the kitchen immediately they get home,” says Midge. And it’s not just a passing fad. “One of last year’s students emailed me only a couple of weeks ago to say she was making the slow roast leg of lamb with dauphinoise potatoes, followed by hot chocolate pudding.”

In this age of celebrity chefs and competitive TV cookery programmes, Midge is keen to point out that what she teaches is an introduction to home cooking. “I am not a chef and this is not a restaurant. It’s an ordinary kitchen. There are lots of upmarket cookery courses on offer for adults in beautiful villas in Provence or Tuscany, with wine-tasting and other add-ons. But this is about cooking for teenagers. And they don’t just learn from me – I get a lot of pleasure being around young people and catching up with their view of life.”

A week at Teencooks costs £475 or €/\$ equivalent; maximum five students per course; nearest TGV: Poitiers; nearest airports: La Rochelle or Poitiers; www.teencooks.co.uk T.+33 546246509

GrimoD

TRAITEUR SINCE 1972



40 ans de gastronomie événementielle!

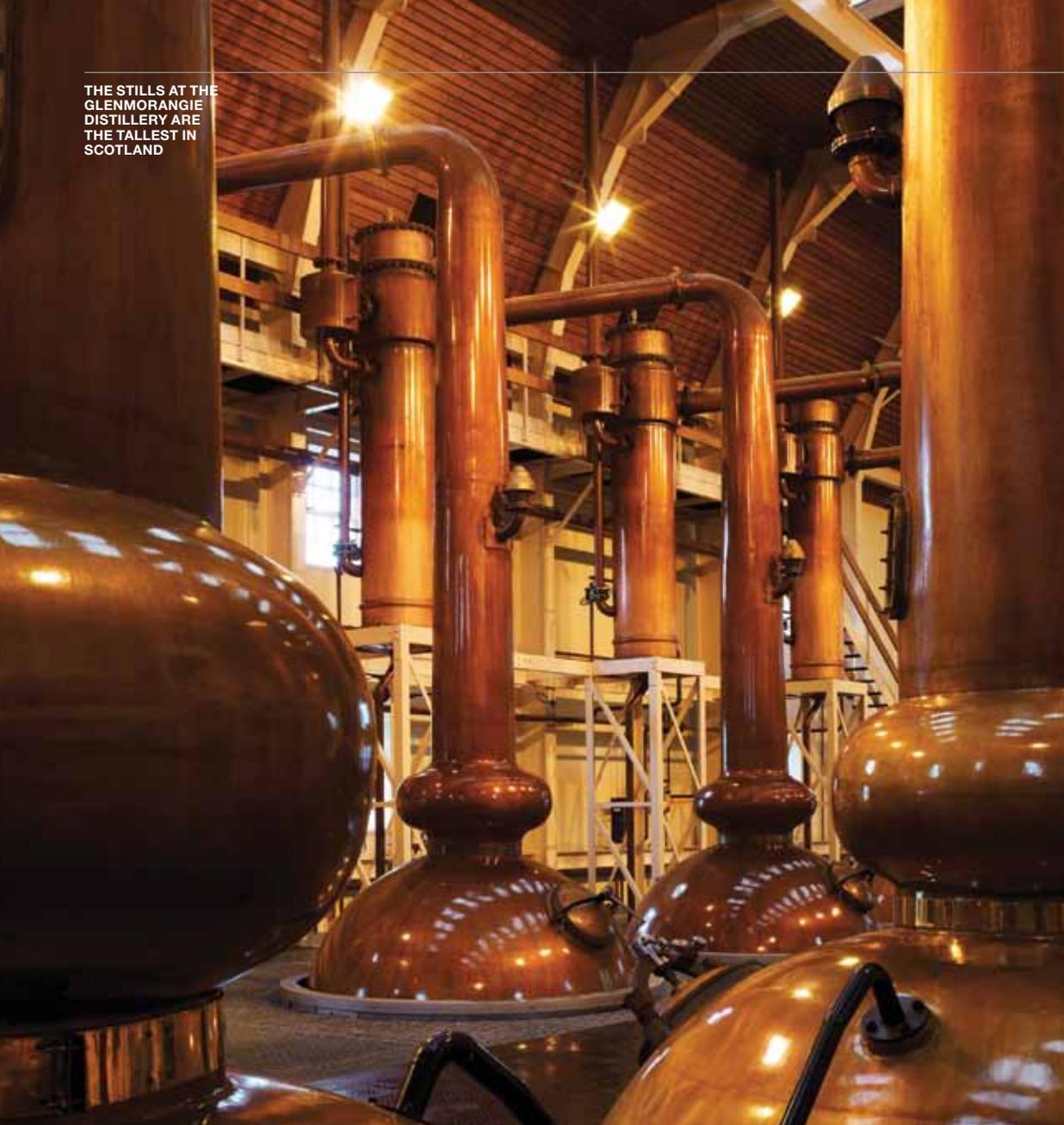
Tél. : 02 633 37 75

Email : grimod.traiteur@skynet.be

9, Route de Genval à 1380 Ohain

www.grimod.com

THE STILLS AT THE GLENMORANGIE DISTILLERY ARE THE TALLEST IN SCOTLAND



WINE CONNOISSEUR DR BILL CREATES WHISKY WITH A HINT OF WINE



Bill Lumsden is someone who really enjoys his job. Responsible for whisky creation for the famous Scottish distiller Glenmorangie, he's known affectionately within the company as Dr Bill, someone who combines his impressive scientific pedigree with a love of both whisky and wine.

The world famous Glenmorangie classic, the single malt whisky so popular in the United States and throughout the world, was Dr Bill's creation. It is a clever blend of some 150 flavours created in a time-honoured process at the distillery at Tain, in northern Scotland, and through years of maturation spent in 'flavoured' casks.

In addition to the special water source in the nearby Tarlogie Hills, whisky production at the Ross-shire distillery benefits from eight metre high stills, the tallest in Scotland and which, the company says, help produce the extremely light taste. The distillation process is undertaken by a staff of 16, known collectively as *The Sixteen Men of Tain*.

“the distillery produces some ten million bottles a year”

Glenmorangie has been the best selling single malt in Scotland almost continuously since 1983 and the distillery produces some ten million bottles a year. But the company continues to innovate.

NEW FLAVOURS

Dr Bill's appreciation of wine is particularly important in this process as many of the new flavours he is developing for the Glenmorangie brand take their inspiration from some vineyard classics, the latest being the Artein private edition whisky. The secret behind the flavouring is one of wine connoisseur Dr Bill's favourites, the Tuscany wine Sassicaya. Glenmorangie's whisky creator has transported to the old wine-impregnated casks from the Italian vineyard to Scotland and filled them with the Artein whisky distillate for its final phase of maturation. Officially labelled as a 15-year-old whisky, in reality it combines both 21-year-old Glenmorangie and 15-year-old Glenmorangie as the base of the limited edition product.

Behind the mist of Scotch legend

An Italian vineyard was the inspiration for a new single malt Scotch whisky, discovers **Nigel Griffiths**



THE CASK PROCESS

Wooden casks are crucial in producing the final flavour of single malt whisky

At Glenmorangie this process is called 'extra maturation' and engineering the transfer of flavours from old casks which once contained wines, sherries or other whiskies is part of the distillery's inhouse expertise.

ART OF CASKS

Karen Fullerton, Glenmorangie's globe-trotting product ambassador explains that two thirds of the flavour of a good Glenmorangie whisky comes from the cask. "Our obsession with finding the perfect wood in which to super mature Glenmorangie has seen us travel far and wide to get what we need."

“Sixty percent of the flavour comes from the cask”

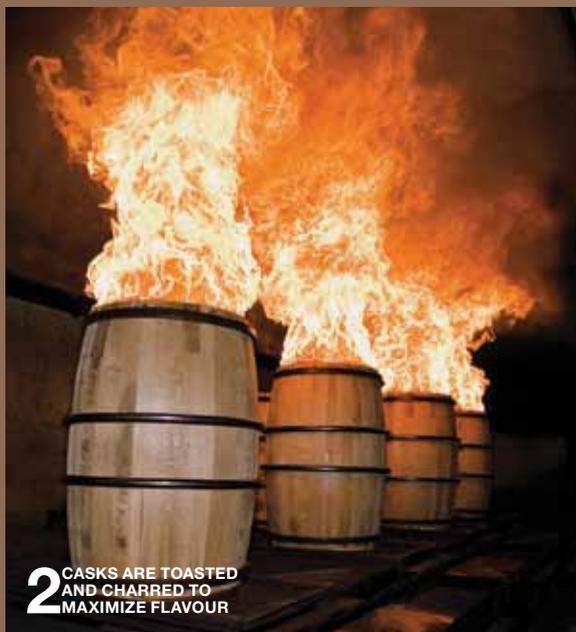
The preferred basic casks come from the United States, made typically from white oak. These slow growth oak tees are nurtured in the company's own forest in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri. The trees are selected for their highly porous qualities before the oak is air seasoned for at least two years, heavily toasting and lightly charring it to maximize the flavour potential. The resulting casks are leased to Bourbon or Tennessee producers for four years and then brought back to Scotland.

"Sixty percent of the flavour comes from the cask which is why we are passionately, and scientifically, committed to creating the perfect casks in which to mature our precious spirit," Karen Fullerton explains.

A final stage for some of the whiskies is chill filtering, to remove elements that will cloud on contact with water. "For our extra-matured range such as Artein, we choose not to carry out this process so that they can maintain their added body, taste and texture," she adds. ☺



1 THE CASKS COME FROM WHITE OAK GROWN IN THE OZARK MOUNTAINS OF MISSOURI



2 CASKS ARE TOASTED AND CHARRED TO MAXIMIZE FLAVOUR



3 THE WHISKY SPENDS FIVE YEARS IN FLAVOUR-IMPREGNATED CASKS



HOTELS & PREFERENCE

Plus de 150 hôtels 4 et 5 étoiles à travers le monde



Brésil Marrakech Saint-Barthélemy Ile Maurice Paris Cannes Le Touquet Saint-Malo Evian-les-Bains

hotelspreference.com
+33 1 78 94 90 40 - code « Together »

Bright Spark

Artist Benjamin Spark talks to **Paul Ames** about the inspiration for his work

Benjamin Spark's graffiti-strewn pop art images of Daffy Duck or curvaceous forties pin-ups may seem a world way from Raphael's vast biblical drawings in the Victoria and Albert Museum, but they are linked by the ancient carpet-weaving tradition of Brussels.

Raphael's Renaissance cartoons were turned into tapestries by *Bruxellois* weavers in the 16th century and hang today in the Vatican. Now Spark's vibrant street pop paintings are being woven into hand-stitched floor coverings for Didden & Co, purveyors of luxurious carpeting in the Belgian capital since the 1960s.

"It's a master stroke by Nathalie Didden who saw my work and accepted the challenge of transposing them from canvas to wool," Spark explains over a glass of wine in his studio. "It's amazing the way the weavers have managed to convey the layers of paint, the colour transitions, the graffiti that I spray over my images."

Inspired by American pop art greats like Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, French-born Spark takes classic pop culture imagery from the world of cartoons as his theme. But he subverts the locked-in comic book universe, juxtaposing Disney stars, Marvel superheroes or the denizens of Franco-Belgian comic strips, then leaves them dirtied and defaced with a spray-paint

graffiti attack.

"I take these icons and ridicule them, to illustrate a sort of disorder in their world," he says, looking across at the madcap mixes of Mickey Mouse, Batman and scantily clad manga darlings decorating the works-in-progress on his studio wall. "I'm exploding the frame that holds them in, soiling them a bit. The characters become the background and the tag comes to the fore."

Spark, 42, admits being a frustrated comic strip author/artist. "I dreamed of it as a boy, but could never come up with a good story," he says. Instead he went into the web design business. Mid-life crisis came early and by 30 he dropped everything to start painting.

After flirting with tribal-influenced *art brut*, known as 'outsider art' in English, Spark developed his

own style, amalgamating pop and graffiti art. He cites Icelandic post-modernist Erró and New York street artist Jean-Michel Basquiat among his influences, and changed his name in tribute to the designer Philippe Starck.

Having abandoned Paris, Spark now works out of a studio in a converted brewery on the mean streets of Molenbeek. "I fell in love with Brussels... it's the place be."

Spark's metre-square carpets are on sale at Didden & Co's show room in the Brussels Marolles district. Get one for your living room floor from €5,000 up. ☎

“I take these icons and ridicule them”

BENJAMIN SPARK AT WORK IN HIS STUDIO

www.benjaminpark.com >



ONLY FOR NOW
120X120 CM CANVAS BY
BENJAMIN SPARK



READ ME
200X160 CM CANVAS BY
BENJAMIN SPARK

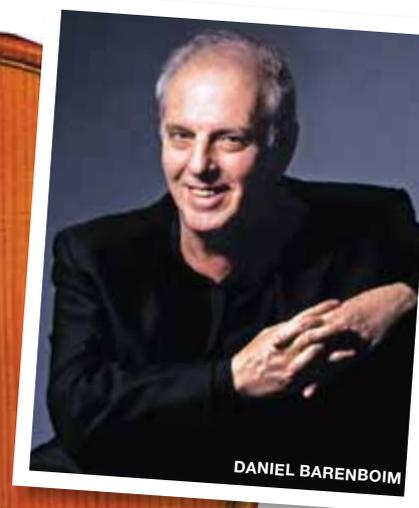
Give music a chance

An organisation that breathes new life into unwanted musical instruments is helping nurture young musicians in developing countries and conflict areas, reports **Klara Slovo**

Do you have an unwanted violin or flute in the attic or cellar? Donate it to the Music Fund and it could be played in an orchestra conducted by Daniel Barenboim. The celebrated conductor and pianist is patron of the Fund, a Brussels-based non-governmental organization which collects donated instruments, cleans and refurbishes them, then ships them to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There they are allocated to young musicians, both Jewish and Palestinian, and together they can find a common cause: making music.

“donors can track their instruments and find out who is playing them”

TRAINING
Each instrument is tagged, so donors can track their instruments and find out who is playing them, where, and what they are playing. Since the Fund started in



DANIEL BARENBOIM

2005, more than 700 instruments have been given a new lease of life in either the Middle East, or in other projects in Mozambique and Congo. Instruments have been collected in Brussels, Lisbon and Madrid to date, and campaigns in other capitals are being planned. The Fund also trains technicians in host countries to tune, maintain and repair them, so that each project can become self-reliant.

DIFFICULTIES

Lukas Pairon, the Fund's director, acknowledges the difficulties of working in such hostile environments. In Gaza, for instance, the music school set up in September 2008 was in ruins by December the same year. But just two months later, it was rebuilt and reopened its doors. “It says a lot about the

“more than 700 instruments have been given a new lease of life”

importance that Gaza's inhabitants attribute to personal development and to music in particular,” he says.

The power of music to inspire young musicians and their audiences beyond the grim realities of life amid conflict or poverty is what keeps Pairon and his team of volunteers going. Educating musicians and training technicians “creates a capital that can't be lost, stolen or demolished”, he says. Musicians can play, and teach; technicians too can share their skills.

Even if you don't have instruments to give, making a financial donation will help repair and ship them, or train technicians. ☺

www.musicfund.be
Make a donation to:

King Baudouin Foundation Friends of Music Fund,
IBAN BE 10 0000 0000 0404,
BIC BPOTBEB7, code 197/0350/0058.
Donations of more than €40 are tax deductible

Urban REGENERATION

Part interior designer, part property developer, Frederic Nicolay's projects are helping revive run-down parts of downtown Brussels, says **Martin Banks**

During the course of the last 15 years or so several of the city's neighbourhoods have changed dramatically. New businesses have sprung up, dilapidated buildings brought back to life and cool new cafes, restaurants and nightspots have suddenly appeared.

One of the people involved with this renaissance is Brussels entrepreneur Frederic Nicolay, who has the ability to spot the business potential of a run-down area. Take, for example, the St Gery part of Brussels, close to the Grand Place. So decrepit was it once upon a time that locals knew it as the area that was destroyed without a war.

Within the space of a couple of years, Nicolay opened three bars, *Zebra*, *Mappa Mondo* and the *Roi des Belges*, on Place St Gery, and a handful of cafes. Fast forward to the present and St Gery is, arguably, one of the more lively parts of Brussels, although Nicolay sold the properties some time ago.

CREATIVITY

Barbara Debusschere, a 36-year-old journalist, sums up the feeling of many about Nicolay's contribution to the development of urban life in Brussels, saying: "What he has achieved is quite remarkable. Much of these areas were

falling apart before he arrived on the scene. But, with his eye for creativity, he has really been at the forefront of the city's revival."

Talking about how he got involved in the renovation business, Nicolay explains: "During my studies at hotel school in Namur, I did a lot of student jobs during weekends, evenings, as a cook or server.

"In addition to compulsory courses, I often worked for caterers to prepare banquets for weddings and family celebrations. It was very intensive and I do not have very good memories. After school, I started working in starred restaurants but it did not feel right."

After helping with the launch of *Le Pain Quotidien*, the brainchild of another Brussels entrepreneur, Alain Coumont, Nicolay opened his own restaurant in 1994.

"At Chez Marie I was serving and cooking. I had no money so I decorated the place by myself. I loved doing that. And people loved the place. That's when I realized I did not like cooking and I preferred creating places for people."

He decided to close *Chez Marie*, created yet another café, *Bonsoir Clara*, then sold it.

"It allowed me to clear all my debts and tackle new projects where I would not be in the kitchen. That's the moment I started to do things on Place St Gery," he recalls.

“I buy a place I like, I create it, and I sell it”



LE BARBETON



FREDERIC NICOLAY



ZEBRA



LE ROI DES BELGES



MAPPA MONDO

He is at pains to stress that he "creates" spaces. "I'm not a bartender or a manager. I'm an interior designer," he says. "Sometimes I work for owners and sometimes I buy a place I like, I create it, and I sell it."

NEW PROJECTS

Nicolay's latest creations are *Le Barbeton* on Rue Dansaert, which he doesn't own, and *La Belle Equipe*, that will soon open on the same street, which he does. "As soon as it is done, I'll sell it to someone who wants to manage it."

The location and renovation of *Le Barbeton* was by chance: "I learned by accident that the place was an old bar and was for rent. It is in a sunny spot and well placed, and I thought it would be nice to just rehabilitate the area."

Aiming to offer "something for every taste" *La Belle Equipe* is a combination of cafe, pizzeria and wine bar.

"The decor and the concept are very different from what I have done before and different from what already exists," he says.

Nicolay, 42, is also currently working on *Flamingo*, a cafe/bar due to open in May at the end of Rue de Laeken, close to the Flemish Theatre (KVS) and in the middle of a red light district.

"While some see this as a neighbourhood where prostitution is rife, I see it primarily as an opportunity," he says. "After all, why go somewhere where there is everything – places like this are just waiting to be revived."

All three venues are expected to soon feature among the must-visit hotspots in town.

Nicolay says his burning desire is to "bring friendliness to neighbourhoods that are not necessarily nice".

He explains: "This does not mean restaurants and bars that are flashy places but places that may have a social use such as low-cost housing and cultural places.

"For me the challenge is to bring new and modern energy to areas that are poorly frequented. It takes a lot of energy and effort but with a little imagination and experience, everything becomes possible." ☺

VOLVO STERCKX DIPLOMAT SALES
YOU DESERVE SOMETHING EXTRA



NOW WITH EXTRA SAVINGS ON SUMMUM & DIPLOMAT PACKAGES

VOLVO XC70 2.4D
STARTING FROM 27.680€

SUMMUM PACKAGE
& DIPLOMAT PACK
3.575€ SAVINGS

VOLVO XC90 2.4D
STARTING FROM 33.300€

SUMMUM PACKAGE
& DIPLOMAT PACK
4.480€ SAVINGS

VOLVO XC60 DRIVE
STARTING FROM 26.380€

SUMMUM PACKAGE
2.750€ SAVINGS

Take advantage of limited diplomat offers available from our stock for quick delivery. Enjoy substantial savings on the exclusive Diplomat Package and Summum Trim luxury equipment. Discover the VOLVO STERCKX stock deals and our specific approach: "Designed around YOU", an English-Dutch-French-Spanish-German speaking staff and our no-nonsense style made us : YOUR Triple Customer Satisfaction Award Winner, and that's where you win, because where else would YOU want to be ?

Donnons priorité à la sécurité. Informations environnementales AR 19/03/2004 : www.volvocars.be. Prix HTVA. Photo's à titre illustratif. Les modèles illustrés peuvent être équipés d'options supplémentaires non comprises dans l'offre. Les conditions Diplomat sont réservées aux diplomats et valables uniquement pour les véhicules de stock. Contactez VOLVO STERCKX pour plus d'informations sur les conditions et une offre dur mesure.

STERCKX R(H)ODE S.A. - 37 Chaussée de Waterloo, 1640 Rhode-Saint-Genèse - 02.358.10.00

STERCKX HALLE N.V. - 151 Chaussée de Bruxelles, 1500 Halle - 02.361.14.18

WWW.STERCKX.BE - info@sterckx.be

Brussels gets ready to rock

When the Hard Rock Cafe hits town, **Lauren Omahen** says it will be more than just a place to eat

Brussels is getting its own Hard Rock Cafe this summer, opening in a restored 16th century building in the city's historic Grand Place. The brand's mix of music, entertainment and American food will be served up in a multi-level location, featuring indoor and outdoor dining areas.

Rock memorabilia will adorn the walls, including items from



THE GRAND PLACE LOCATION FOR THE NEW HARD ROCK CAFE

legendary musicians from around the world and today's top contemporary artists. Innovative technology includes an interactive touch wall enabling fans to explore Hard Rock's rock and roll memorabilia collection, including an Eric Clapton guitar. Diners will be able to virtually tour all of the company's 174 venues around the world located in 53 countries.

With space to seat more than 150 people, the new venue will include a live music location for weekly appearances, a late-night lounge and the Rock Shop where guests will be able to stock up on Hard Rock merchandise. 🎸



INSIDE THE NEW HARD ROCK CAFE



THURSDAY 19 APRIL
 @ Knokke Out
 Chaussée de Tervuren, 389
 1410 Waterloo

**MADMOISELLE
 LUNA**

&

**OLIVIER
 COSSERIES**

SPECIAL GUEST //
MADMOISELLE LUNA

DRESS CODE //
CHIC & TRENDY

TABLE BOOKING //
0479 74 22 72

Dinner : **20h**
 Doors Opening : **23h30**
 Entrance : **10 €**

FIRST EDITION - **19TH OF APRIL** • SECOND EDITION - **26TH OF APRIL**
 THIRD EDITION - **3TH OF MAY** • FOURTH EDITION - **10TH OF MAY**

Your Prestigious Night

WWW.BEMYVIP.BE • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BEMYVIP.BE

Une coupe de Barza
 offerte à l'entrée

Be My VIP - First Edition Save the date & Be there

What's on BELGIUM

Where to go and what to do – here's a selection of upcoming events



IMAGE CONSTRUCTION 21.05.12

The Image Construction series presents "3 Cities" at the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels. The event will examine three monumental photographic montages produced by the Baukunst-Adrien Verschuere architectural office. "3 Cities" is a critical appraisal of the cities of Liege, Bruges, and Brussels and Christophe Van Gerwey examines these urban scenes through the lens of fiction. This free event is a new look at well-known architecture;
 Tu, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 10h-18h;
 Th 10h-21h; closed Mon
 Centre for Fine Arts, Rue Ravenstein
 23, B-1000 Brussels
 Info & Tickets: +32 2 507 82 00
 www.bozar.be

Photographs: Image Construction © Baukunst
 Adrien Verschuere; Culnaria © Culnaria sprl
 Blueclic.com/G. Miclóffe; Iris Day © Visit-Brussels



CULINARIA 31.05 – 03.06.12

Get taste buds tingling at one of the best culinary events of the year, sampling exquisite cuisine prepared by 16 of Belgium's finest chefs. The four day event will feature workshops, interactive discovery and opportunities to practice culinary skills. A great place to discover the secrets behind delicious chocolate, wine, beer, cocktails and more. www.culinariasquare.com



IRIS DAY 08.05.12

Join Brussels in celebrating Iris day, the flower being the symbol of Brussels. The city comes together with free concerts, firework displays and dozens of street artists in the vicinity of the royal palace and Grand Place, making it one of the biggest celebrations of the year. www.fetedeliris.be



ROYAL GREENHOUSES OF LAEKEN
01.05.12

The seven world-renowned greenhouses, designed by the architect Balat in collaboration with Victor Horta, are open to the public just 15 days per year, attracting aficionados of 19th century architecture as well as green-fingered plant enthusiasts lured by a wide range of flora and rare species.

Domaine Royal de Laeken
Avenue du Parc Royal,
B-1020 Brussels
www.opt.be



ART BRUSSELS 19.04 – 22.04.12

This is the 30th anniversary of Art Brussels, and a perfect excuse to join the festivities. Art Brussels has maintained a strong position in the international art market and is an opportunity to purchase works from around the world at modest prices. The event combines young talent and established names, and is the go-to fair for critics, curators, collectors. Featuring more than 2,000 exhibits including contemporary painting, sculpture, video installations and performance art. *Th-Sun 12h-19h; Th Apr 19 19h- 22h, Brussels Expo, 1 Place de Belgique, B-1020 Brussels. www.artbrussels.be*

Royal Greenhouses © WBT JP Remy



INSIDE ANTWERP
16.05 – 20.05.12

Look no further for interior design inspiration: the City of Antwerp reveals the interiors of several unique buildings around the city. This festival includes premises normally not open to the public to combine exclusive access with the remarkable aesthetics of the buildings. The route includes carefully selected buildings ranging from art deco to Baroque, and mansions to churches. An array of packages range from stays at a charming B&B to high tea in a beautiful building. Available for purchase are hand-made jewellery, paintings, wallpaper, antique furniture and ceramics.

Wed-Sun 10h-19h
Wed & Fri 18h-22h
www.excellentconcept.com

VAN DER SMISSEN immo



*L'*immobilière active



www.vandersmissenimmo.be
Tél. +32 (0)2 351 42 28

NEW!

ortel
MOBILE

Mobile Internet



Visit our website
for more information!

MB	Price	Text	To
50*	€5	BUNDLE BUY SURF5	1966
500*	€10	BUNDLE BUY SURF10	1966

* Valid after activation of bundle. Bundle is valid until 30 days after activation.
Without activation of bundle: €1/MB

www.ortelmobile.be

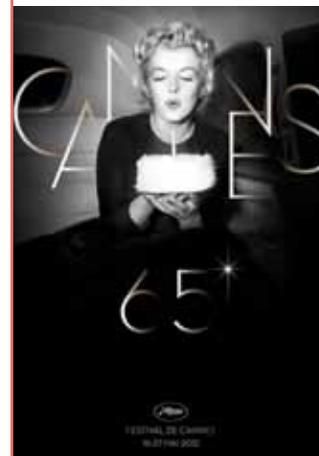
What's on INTERNATIONAL

Where to go and what to do – upcoming events in other countries

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 16.05 – 27.05.12

Since its creation, the Cannes Film Festival has drawn attention to films with the goal of contributing toward the development of cinema, boosting the worldwide film industry and celebrating cinema at an international level. With appearances by film and music artists from all around the world, the Cannes Film Festival is the place to see and be seen. Celebrating its 65th anniversary, Cannes will pay tribute to Marilyn Monroe, selected as the icon of 2012.

www.festival-cannes.fr



Cannes Film Festival © photo by Otto L. Bettmann, artwork by Agence Bronx

LONDON CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 22.05 – 26.05.12

There is something for everyone at the Chelsea Flower Show, and 2012 will be no different. This year's show will include a variety of new features. With 14 different show gardens and more than 500 exhibitors, Chelsea continues to delight.

Royal Hospital, Chelsea,
London SW3
www.rhs.org.uk



AMSTERDAM QUEENS DAY 30.04.12

A sea of orange greets visitors to Queen's Day in Amsterdam, with everyone dressed in orange in honour of the Dutch Royal family. The first Queen's Day was first celebrated in 1885 to commemorate the birth of Queen Wilhelmina, and today the celebration pays homage to the current monarch, Queen Beatrix. With gridlocked canals, children's activities, markets and street parties.

www.iamsterdam.com





LONDON DESIGNS OF THE YEAR 2012 04.07.12

Showcasing innovative and progressive designs from around the world, the Design Awards are known as the Oscars of the design world. Seven categories are Architecture, Digital, Fashion, Furniture, Graphics, Products and Transport and a high-profile judging panel will choose the best entries. They include the London 2012 Olympic Torch and the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding dress. *Design Museum, London SE1 2YD*
 Daily 10h-17h45, www.designmuseum.org



LUXEMBOURG SPRING MUSIC 21.05.12

The Printemps Musical jazz and world music festival celebrates its 30th anniversary this year with 13 concerts paying homage to music from Cuba with bands including Los Van Van, and the Afro Cuban All Stars and jazz piano trendsetters such as Jason Moran and Hiromi Uehara. Organised by the Luxembourg City Tourist Office.
www.printempsmusical.lu



PRAGUE MUSIC FESTIVAL 12.05 – 03.06.12

In 1946 the Czech Republic was celebrating the first anniversary of the end of the Second World War, while the Czech Philharmonic was celebrating its 15th anniversary; thus, the Prague Spring International Music Festival was created. Despite its rollercoaster ride through history and the political climate, the festival has survived thanks to the continued support of concert-goers. Opening with the Czech Philharmonic, the festival will include artists such as Ivan Moravec, the Smetana Trio, Accademia Bizantina, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic and many more.

www.festival.cz

Designs of the year © Luke Hayes

Ice watch



Become our fan on **Facebook**

www.ice-watch.com

SILI FOREVER
COLLECTION



Never miss another issue...



For details of how to have your copy of *Together* delivered to you for €25 (six issues) visit:
www.togethertmag.eu

Automobiles
Vanderveken
Bruxelles

Vous cherchez à acheter ou à vendre une voiture d'exception ?

Les établissements Vanderveken vous proposent :

- Un grand choix de voitures classiques, dont la plupart sont exposées dans la salle d'exposition de 1500 m²,
- L'achat et le dépôt de vos voitures historiques,
- Un service d'expertise
- Un service d'entreposage (depuis 2008)

La réparation, la maintenance et la restauration mécanique des véhicules ont lieu dans l'atelier de 400 m².



Anc. Ets Vanderveken SA

15-17 Chaussée de Roodebeek
1200 Bruxelles
Belgique

Tél : + 32 (0)2 770 72 92
Fax : + 32 (0)2 772 57 45
Email : info@vdrvgrant.be

Ouvert du lundi au vendredi : de 8h à 12h et de 13h à 18h et le Samedi : de 9h à 12h

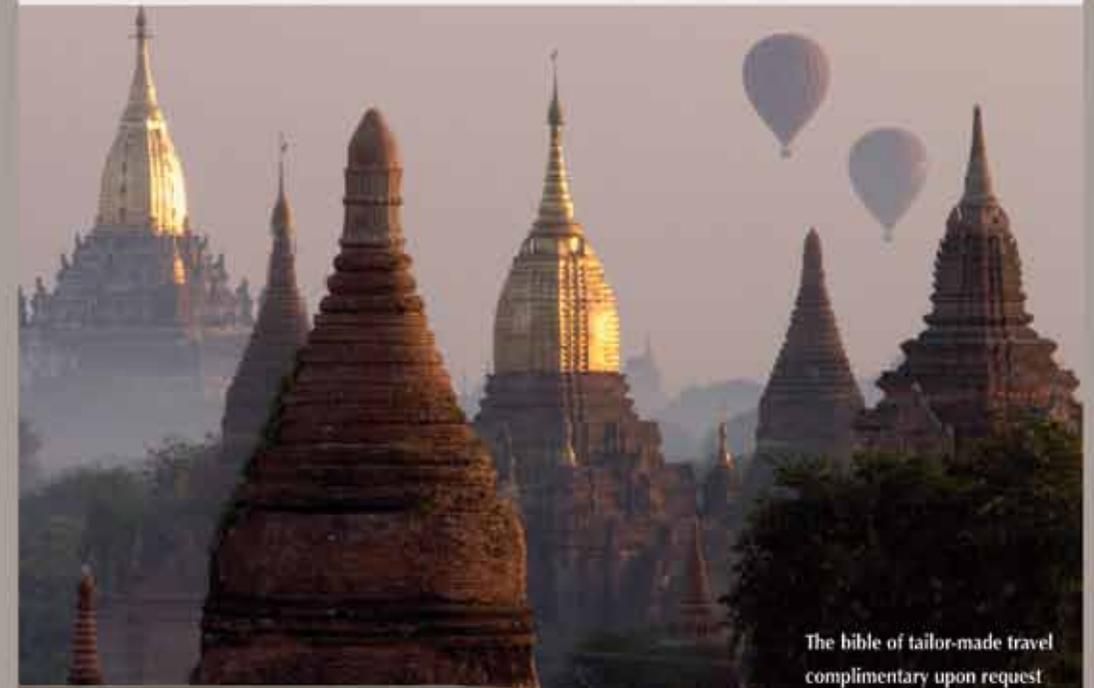
LE CHAT

by Philippe Geluck



The specialist of
luxury tailor-made tours and
holidays to far away destinations...

an unforgettable mix of emotions:
an exquisite art de vivre, outstanding accommodation
Come and visit us... In a cosy atmosphere while sharing a cup of tea, tell us
about your wishes: all of your wishes!



The bible of tailor-made travel
complimentary upon request
by phone 02/218.24.84



continents
insolites

Rue César Franck 44a
1050 Bruxelles
Tel: +32(0)2 218 24 84
bruxelles@insolites.com

www.continents-insolites.com





open your mind.

Add as friend



You Drive
We Forest



Join us now on FACEBOOK.
Become a fan by clicking Like on our Page.
<http://www.facebook.com/smartBelgium>

>> 1 smart achetée
= 168 arbres plantés
= 100% CO₂ neutralisé

Grâce à smart et WeForest, acheter une smart,
c'est aussi planter 168 arbres au Kenya.

smart center Drogenbos

Grote Baan, 340 - 1620 Drogenbos

Tel: 02/558.16.00



Il y a déjà une smart
à partir de 8.650 euros*



smart cdi (40kW): 3,3 L/100 KM et 86G CO₂/KM - Informations environnementales AR 19/03/2004: www.smart.com - Donnons priorité à la sécurité.

*Visuel non contractuel